

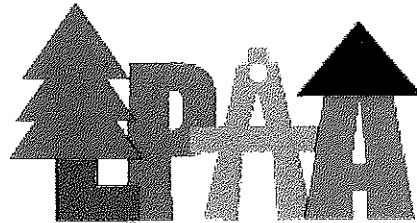
# **APPLICATION FOR**

## **Smithville Cultural District**

**Smithville, Texas**



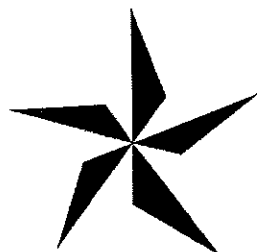
**Nonprofit Applicant: Lost Pines Artisan's Alliance**



# Smithville Cultural District Application

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Texas  
Commission  
on the Arts

# CULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Smithville Cultural District

*Name of cultural district*

April Daniels, Lost Pines Artisans Alliance

*Submitted By*

5/31/13

*Date*

## 1. COVER PAGE

Smithville Cultural District

*Name of cultural district*

Smithville

*Name of city*

Lost Pines Artisans Alliance

*Name of nonprofit applicant*

17

*Texas Legislative District(s)*

10 & 27

*Congressional Legislative District(s)*

## PRIMARY CONTACT

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: TX Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAIR OF COLLABORATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

April R. Daniels 5/31/13  
(Signature certifying accuracy of application) (Date)

April Daniels, Board Secretary, Lost Pines Artisans Alliance / Chair Cultural District Committee  
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Email Address: playhousesmithville@yahoo.com Website URL: www.lostpinesrtisansalliance.org

**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL CITY**

Mark A. Bunte 5/31/13  
(Mayor's signature certifying accuracy of application) (Date)

Mayor, City of Smithville  
(Name and title)

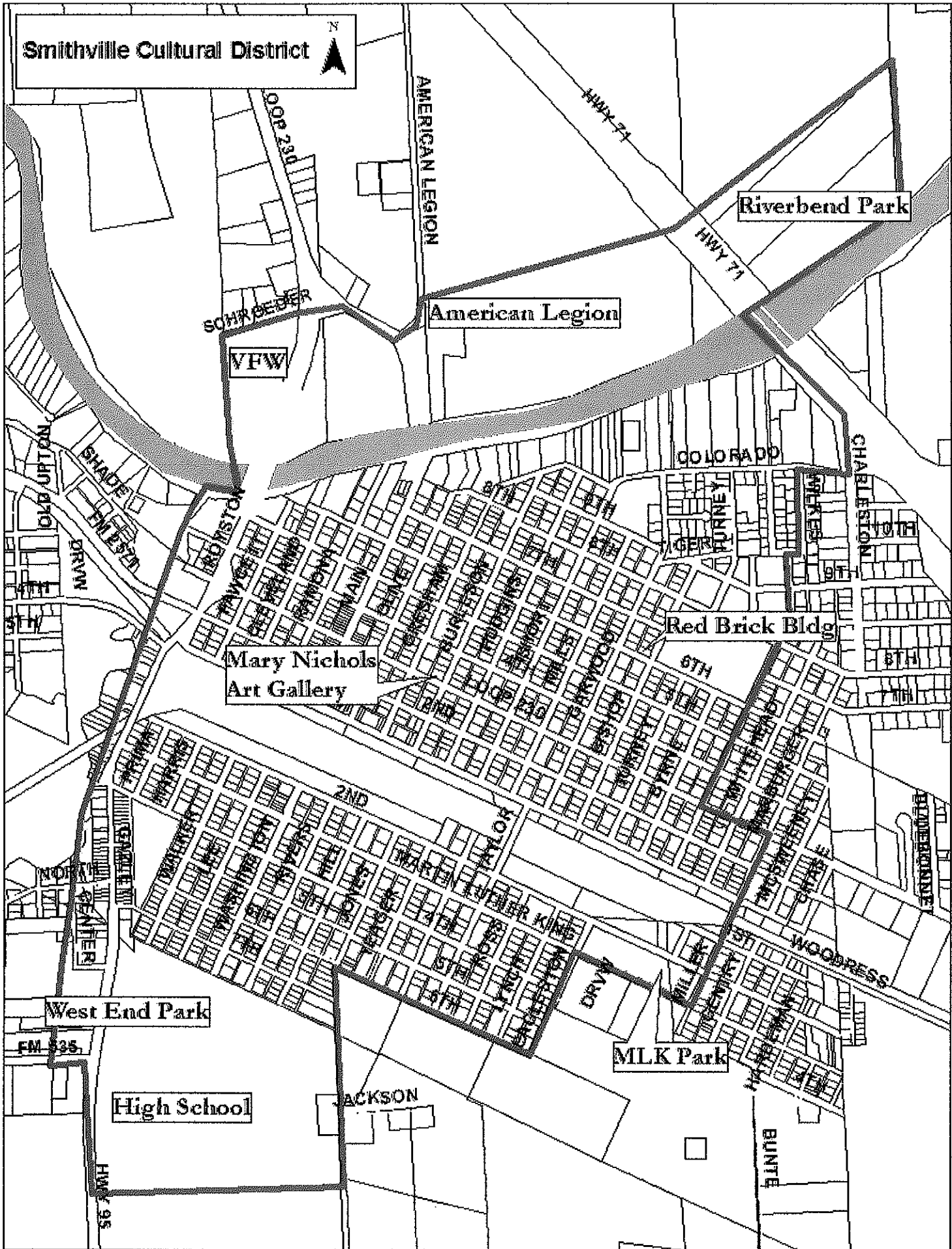
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# Smithville Cultural District Application

## Narrative

### A. Level of Community Support

Smithville is a town rich in history and cultural traditions. Ideally situated in a central location between Houston and Austin along the Highway 71 corridor, a significant number of artists and historians live in the Smithville area. They work together to enhance the quality of life here and embrace all forms of arts and culture.

The Smithville Heritage Society draws wide and broad support and interest in the community, holding courses at the Smithville Public Library in genealogical programming and researching historical documentation on the web and in historical repositories. They are housed in one of the historic homes on Main Street, and maintain a wonderful collection of photos, histories, and artifacts from earlier times. The Lost Pines Artisans Alliance (LPAA) includes more than 150 members who support the arts and create through visual arts including clay, water colors, oils, acrylics, pastels, sculpture, fiber art, bronze and metal work, wood working; performing arts like theater and music; and a host of other diverse arts interests. Artists who have moved into the Smithville area include a renowned paper doll maker, a thriving community theater, metal and wood workers, and talented jewelry craftspeople. Artists have commented that there is a growing audience for all types of creative endeavors, from eager students in the school district to national commissions for local sculptors to audience members in the seats at the local theater. A welcoming municipal government goes out of its way to make artists feel like valuable members of the community and works to maintain an open path to help them set up shop.

The multiple cultural and arts venues in the downtown area make Smithville an ideal candidate for a cultural district designation. People flock to the many long-standing events (such as Smithville Jamboree and the Smithville Festival of Lights Celebration, which celebrated 57 and 26 years running in 2013 respectively) and are coming in growing numbers to newer traditions (such as the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Gingerbread Man 5K/3-mile Fun Run/Walk, which takes advantage of Smithville's 2006 Guinness Book of World Records World's Largest Gingerbread Man title and is held in conjunction with the Festival of Lights). The Smithville "Airing of the Quilts" will be in its fourth year in November of this year. The annual Smithville Empty Bowl Project has enjoyed great community support since it began in 2011; the partnership between the Smithville Food Pantry, the Smithville Community Gardens and the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance makes this event a great success. The Smithville Veteran's Memorial Park, built

primarily through community donations of materials, labor, and funds (see Attachment 2A) is a beautiful tribute to veterans connected to Bastrop County; it was dedicated with much fanfare and community support on Memorial Day, 2013.

Designation as a Cultural Arts District will benefit the community and surrounding area by helping to focus the longstanding and new efforts of a large group of dedicated individuals who will have access to the resources they need to move forward from the idea stage through to implementation. "It's Possible in Smithville" is the rallying cry of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, largely because dedicated citizens take full advantage of available programs and funding in an effort to maximize our own resources which include the time and effort volunteers are willing to donate to make things happen. The cultural district designation will additionally provide support, recognition, and marketing opportunities that will benefit the area.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** The Cultural District application process officially started at the City Council meeting held on December 12, 2011. Five additional public meetings were held in 2012 and 2013 to discuss the proposed footprint and benefits of the Smithville Cultural District. Additional presentations were held at community organizations like the Noon Lion's Club, the Smithville Business Association (SBA), the Smithville Heritage Center, and the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as at about 20 meetings of various community organizations. Over 50 business owners located on and around Main Street have been individually interviewed for their feedback on the Cultural District proposal. (Appendix A provides some information about these public meetings). Members of all of these groups have been very enthusiastic about the program as have all members of the public who have attended meetings or made comments in our online survey. Many local civic and municipal groups including the City Council of Smithville, the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of the LPAA, the nonprofit organization co-sponsoring the application process, issued resolutions or statements of support for the project (see Appendix B). It is a popular topic of discussion as well in less formal settings, and maps have been left at several locations in town to get feedback about important cultural sites. Smithvillians are overwhelmingly supportive of this program and are convinced of the value it will have for our community. Typical comments include: "This will be a great boon for our community. We have so many significant cultural attractions and we want the world to know it!" and "I have visited cultural districts in other cities and their towns, particularly the town centers, have blossomed under the program. Smithville is perfect for a cultural district." (For more information, see Appendix C.)

## **B. Management Structure of Cultural District Steering Committee**

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR CULTURAL DISTRICT:** The responsibility for the Cultural District will be assumed by the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance in close partnership with the City of Smithville. The Steering Committee will act on behalf of these two organizations to guide the proposals and do the work associated with Cultural District activities.

**MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE:** The process of preparing this application has brought many community members together in support of the designation. This group is comprised of representatives from the many arts organizations, local government, entertainment venues, retail establishments and business owners. The formation of this group will allow each of the organizations to leverage their marketing dollars, solicit new ideas or proposed cultural events, and work together toward continued growth of the cultural district and the city as a whole. This group will be responsible for establishing marketing

plan guidelines and will assist with the library's volunteer registration procedures. The Steering Committee for the Smithville Cultural Arts District will adhere to the positions in the organizational chart in Appendix C.

**KEY STAFF/PERSONNEL (STEERING COMMITTEE):** The following individuals have agreed to be members of the Steering Committee. Others have been encouraged to volunteer in the future (See Appendix C).

- **PRESIDENT:** April Daniels: Board Vice President, Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance; Chair, Community Relations Committee (SV Chamber); Executive Director, Playhouse Smithville
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** Jill Strube: Grants Administrator, City of Smithville; Co-Owner, Samantics Squared on Main Street
- **TREASURER:** Cammy Snyder: Board President, Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance
- **SECRETARY:** Joe Alan Kindred: Musical artist and co-owner of several historic buildings on Main Street
- **David Herrington:** Local Historian; Co-Author of *Images of America: Smithville*, Smithville Municipal Judge
- **Crystal Kindred:** Artist and co-owner of several historic buildings on Main Street
- **Bob Parker:** Smithville Business Owner (locations on Loop 230 & on Main Street)
- **Tina Smith:** Incoming President, Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Sandy Hightower:** Smithville Business Owner (multiple locations on Main Street & others in Smithville)
- **PK Scott:** Member of LPAA and visual artist
- **Richard Latham:** Board Member, Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and Lost Pines Artisan's Alliance; Chair of "The Possibility of Public Art" Committee, Lost Pines Artisan's Alliance (honorary member)

**MARKETING SMITHVILLE'S CULTURAL DISTRICT:** Marketing the Smithville Cultural District will be a comprehensive effort of all of the organizations and individuals represented in the steering committee, as well as many committed volunteers who have agreed to serve on sub-committees. The main function of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce is to market and promote Smithville to meeting planners, touring groups and leisure travelers. Designation as a Cultural District will be another important tool for the Chamber of Commerce, which already works to promote Smithville in publications, advertisements, consumer and trade shows and their website and Facebook pages. The Smithville Business Association (a subcommittee of the Chamber of Commerce) will focus on marketing the Smithville Cultural District through their ongoing efforts including their "Feet on Main Street" programming. Other partners, such as the City of Smithville and the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance will use website and other marketing tools to promote the Cultural District whenever possible. Proposed social media programs will include Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest campaigns, targeted online marketing as well as a robust website dedicated to the cultural district (proposed site name: [www.smithvilleculturaldistrict.org](http://www.smithvilleculturaldistrict.org)). Branding of the Cultural District is discussed in detail in Appendix G. Discussions in town have already begun to formulate a branding concept. In addition, Bastrop County recently hired a consultant to develop a branding program for the County; the Steering Committee will seek information on that process as it progresses.

**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:** The Smithville Public Library has developed an on-line volunteer database system ([www.volunteersmithville.org](http://www.volunteersmithville.org)). This database assists all of our nonprofit groups and other efforts that need volunteers, and will assist in finding the volunteers needed to run the Cultural District as well.

## C. Cultural Assets

### CULTURAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

- **NW Anchor:** VFW Post 1309. The north border follows property to the north of the Colorado River, including the American Legion Post 180 Hall and Riverbend Park
- **NE Anchor:** Riverbend Park. The east border then follows along Wilkes, jogs to the east on Loop 230 to Marburger, and south along Marburger to Martin Luther King, crossing the tracks. Marburger becomes Miller at the railroad tracks.
- **SE Anchor:** MLK Park The south border runs up MLK to Eagleston, then jogs south to 5th Street, west to the High School property line, and around the high school to West End Park
- **SW Anchor:** West End Park. The West border follows Hwy 95 to 4th Avenue, and jogs out to Gazley Creek, ending at the Colorado River.

In addition to this specific footprint, the Smithville Cultural District seeks to include a film overlay (see Appendix I, A—“Smithville Chamber of Commerce Map of Film Locations”) that would list the many locations in town that have been used (and will be in the future) in the various films that we have been proud to facilitate. Smithville was the first designated “Film Friendly” location in Texas, and we strive with every production to make that designation even more meaningful.

**ENTERPRISES:** Cultural, arts, tourism, and heritage enterprises include (but are not limited to) those listed below. See Appendix D for additional more information about these and other enterprises.

### Artisans and Galleries

- Mary Nichols Art Center (area art center/gallery/performance space: <http://www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org>)
- Bill McGlaun’s Studio (bronze sculpture artist: [www.billsbronze.com](http://www.billsbronze.com))
- Devonshire Incense & Soap Company (international seller of custom fragrance products: <http://www.devonshireorganics.com>)
- Omega Bronze Art Foundry (<http://omegabronze.com>)
- Pat Wolf Designs (cloth and costuming, custom leather worker: [www.patriciawolf.com](http://www.patriciawolf.com))
- Tom Tierney: Tom-Kat Paper Dolls (<http://www.tomtierney.com/index.htm>)
- Smooth Moves Dance Studio ([www.smoothmovesdance.com](http://www.smoothmovesdance.com))
- Woodworking artisans:
  - Sam Blasco (Samantics Squared—includes gallery space: [www.samantics2.com](http://www.samantics2.com)),
  - Edward Alexander (111 Store—includes gallery space),
  - Charlie Smith (Smith & McGill),
  - Clay Roberts (Clay Roberts & Co.), and
  - Bill Fritz (Bill’s Creations)

### Performance/event spaces

- Playhouse Smithville (performance/stage area: [www.playhousesmithville.com](http://www.playhousesmithville.com))
- Smithville High School Black Box theater (performance/stage area)
- Smithville ISD “Red Brick” Building theater (performance/stage area—for information about events, look for “red brick auditorium at [www.smithvilleisd.org/apps/events/calendar](http://www.smithvilleisd.org/apps/events/calendar))
- Riverbend Park (multiple stages/festival location: <http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/PARD.aspx>)
- Smithville Recreation Center (performance/stage area: <http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/PARD.aspx>)

- American Legion Hall (performance/stage area/festival location)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars' Hall (cultural/historic center; potential auditorium space)
- The Texas Lounge (potential music venue)
- Central School (great potential as a historic structure with a wonderful auditorium; currently in private hands, but several individuals and organizations are trying to find ways to bring it back into public control)

#### **Historic/Heritage Venues and Sites**

- "Historic Smithville Strolling Tour" (current Main Street-based walking tour developed by the Smithville Heritage Society)
- Smithville Ghost Tours (current historic walking/"Ann Powell Express Train" tour asset—tours began for Halloween in 2011)
- Bonnie and Clyde's Smithville Hideaway (historic driving tour asset)
- Commercial and Residential Historic Districts (historic driving tour asset)
- D.J. Screw's Studio (national recognized "rap" artist/historic driving tour asset)
- Mary A. Brown Primary School (historic driving tour asset)
- Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church (historic driving tour asset)
- Smithville Heritage Museum (historic walking tour asset)
- The Texas State L.D. and Laverne Clark House for writers on sabbatical
- West End Park, the Chittlin' Trail Circuit and the Negro Leagues (historic driving tour asset)

NOTE: Some of these historic locations are mentioned in *Images of America: Smithville*.

#### **Parks and Museums**

- The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department (<http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/PARD/PARD-Maps.aspx>) includes the following parks:
  - Riverbend Park (the 50-acre park)
  - MLK Park, the Railroad Park
  - Keilburg Park, and the Bark Park
  - James H. Long Railroad Park & Museum (beginning of historic walking tour/performance/festival venue/outdoor music venue)
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (historic driving tour asset/performance/festival space)
  - Veterans Memorial Park & Splash Pad (public space: [www.texasmemorialpark.org](http://www.texasmemorialpark.org))
  - Independence Park (under construction – gateway park, beginning of historic driving tour)

#### **Other Assets**

- 2006 Guinness World Record Gingerbread Man
- The Music and Film Commission
- The Ann Powell Express Train (a small on-road diesel "train" that has an engine and two touring cars)
- Locations used in films throughout the area (film overlay – driving tour)

### **D. Incentives and Collaborations**

As with virtually every large endeavor, collaborations among Smithville entities will ensure the success of the program. The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Smithville are working to develop a rack card and a guidebook that will assist in recruitment and informational efforts that will

attract businesses to town and to help them as they grow. The guidebook will include a section about resources that will identify funding sources, such as state and federal tax Incentives that are available to building owners who renovate and restore historic properties and any other relevant federal and state funding available to eligible enterprises.

The Steering Committee volunteers will work together with the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Smithville to encourage local banks to creating a Cultural District Small Business Low Interest Loan Program that will be offered to qualified businesses in the proposed Cultural District. Local banks will be approached to find out the feasibility of creating a direct, low-interest loan program for current owners or new investors of commercial building for purchase/renovation of existing buildings or construction of the new buildings in the Cultural District through the Community Reinvestment Act and/or other economic development programs.

Additionally, an Arts Incentive Program will be available to all building owners in the proposed Cultural District and Overlay. This program would market empty commercial space to capitalized, working artists at below market rates. In return for the rental assistance from the building owners, renters will agree to accept the space "as is" and agree to improve the space at their own expense. This incentive program will include an application process wherein the potential renter will be asked to present a business plan, provide proof of financial solvency, and meet other requirements as established by the Steering Committee and any participating building owner.

The City of Smithville has a limited amount of specifically designated economic development dollars that may be used with unanimous approval of the City Council. The Council used these dollars sparingly and wisely. For example, in fall of 2011 the City Council approved the use of these dollars to build a \$60,000 structure for Omega Bronze Art Foundry (<http://omegabronze.com/>). The foundry's owner graduated from Smithville high school and came back to build a strong business and grow jobs in his hometown. Omega Bronze will repay these funds through a five-year lease. They opened their doors on January 1, 2012 with two full-time and two part-time positions and are the first (very successful) company in a new small industrial park. Within one year, the company has grown to eight positions. The Omega Bronze Art Foundry is an exceptional economic driver for Smithville, attracting sculpture artists from all over the United States.

In addition, the Grants Administrator for the City of Smithville is continually researching appropriate grant and foundation funding to support economic development through innovative programming and serves as the Vice President of the Steering Committee for the proposed Cultural District.

The City of Smithville will also work in conjunction with the Chamber, the LPAA, the SBA, the Heritage Society and other volunteers to develop and maintain proper signage in the area (Appendix F shows a memo related to signage as presented to City Council in November, 2011). Signs designating businesses included in the Cultural District and identified as "highlights" will be created. This will allow those on a self-guided tour (walking or driving) to more readily identify cultural assets. This tour will be modeled on the existing "Strolling Tour of Main Street" sponsored by the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Smithville's leaders are always cognizant of the needs of the workforce and the residents. Several recent plans, including the Smithville Sustainability Plan, Feasibility Study, and Training Plan prepared through a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office, are designed to implement programs that will greatly benefit our workforce and create opportunities for economic development and job growth through

sustainable industries and opportunities presented through the Cultural District. See Attachment H for the City's 2011-2012 Comprehensive Plan, which includes these SECO studies.

## **E. Developing and Sustaining the Cultural District**

**PLANNING IN SMITHVILLE:** The Smithville community has collaborated to develop a number of plans since the 1980s including: Comprehensive Plans in 1986, 1995, and 2007, as well as plan updates in 2009 and 2011-12; the 2009 Safe Routes to School Plan; the 2011 Tourism Assessment; and the 2012 SECO Plan Series. The common element to all of these plans, as well as this Cultural District application, is the dedicated group of community leaders and citizens who are fiercely committed to improving the quality of life in Smithville through innovative avenues and partnerships among the City, the Chamber, the Smithville Independent School District, and virtually every nonprofit and business establishment in town. Smithville is a town that does not let its plans gather dust on a shelf. By 2009, about 40% of the projects identified in the 2007 had been completed or were in process, and by 2011, about 70% of the projects identified in that plan were underway or completed. Among these, a boat ramp was constructed at the bridge providing access to the Colorado River, the Shop Local/Chamber Bucks program was initiated, and the Airport Advisory Board was established.

Another great example of public and private planning coming together was the construction of the Smithville Recreation Center (completed in 1999), which has provided a place for community meetings and events, performances, banquets, and athletics and has a full proscenium stage for public use. As with many other great endeavors in Smithville, a "Friends" organization of volunteers was established to help bring the project from the idea stage to completion. Other similar types of organizations that work with public entities include the Friends of the Library, the Friends of the Veterans Memorial Park, and the Citizens Association for Education.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES:** In addition to the Omega Bronze Art Foundry initiative mentioned above, other economic development initiatives related to the arts include the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce's Music and Film Commission which attracts cinematic artists to Smithville. Smithville has the distinction of being designated Texas' very first "Film Friendly" City by the Texas Film Commission (housed in the Office of the Governor), an appellation that draws many tourists to town in search of the HOPE FLOATS house, the tree from TREE OF LIFE and the bar where Dennis Quaid played in BENEATH THE DARKNESS, to name just a few. The Smithville Music and Film Commission hosts an annual REEL FILM EXPO, which features screenings of films shot in Smithville as well as judging a competition for new Texas film makers and offering workshops in behind-the-scenes movie magic like stunt work, makeup, and "How to Make a Film for Under \$5,000"—a very popular workshop. These events and activities have had a significant economic impact on Smithville, drawing millions of dollars into the economy as well as attracting working artists to our community who support the film industry both behind the scenes and in front of the camera. The Chamber and the City have worked collaboratively to make Smithville truly film friendly, a great example of the power and success of the strong partnerships and ability for individuals to successfully collaborate in Smithville.

The 2011 Smithville Comprehensive Plan outlines several short-term recommendations intended to provide a "jump start" to making a difference, laying a foundation of success for larger, more intensive projects. Some of these include: working with the Hyatt to bring more tours to Smithville; establishing Heritage Tourism in partnership with the Smithville Heritage Society; and carrying out proposed Historic revitalization programs and awards through the efforts of the newly-established Historic Preservation

and Design Standards Advisory Committee. Longer-term recommendations reflect the need for greater public and private investment, commitment from the community, and coordination to be successful.

With an eye toward attracting artists to the Cultural District core, the Cultural District Steering Committee also proposes to follow the lead of the Mississippi Main Street Association by creating an “Investor Book of Available Vacant Properties” and an “Investor Map of Vacant Properties” to communicate to working artists about available space and opportunities in Smithville. The Investor Book will include photos of each property, a written description, a “what I could use this property for” checklist, and room for notes on each page. Smithville has already seen the revitalization of two historic properties on Main Street. One of these properties immediately attracted an artist who now has a thriving dance studio (Smooth Moves Dance Studio) right in the heart of the proposed Cultural District.

These are just a few examples of the projects, partnerships, and close working relationships with individual community members and organizations. Smithville is used to working together to promote cultural experiences, sending out the call for action, and helping ideas gain momentum through to fruition. The Cultural District Designation would become one more important asset in Smithville's toolbox to attract, retain, and assist business owners and artisans who want to improve the quality of life for all residents here and for Bastrop County as a whole. A Cultural District Designation would support ongoing efforts to increase opportunities for jobs within this area, establish training and apprenticeship programs, and provide support for working, capitalized artists who want to move to Smithville to improve these surroundings and create an eclectic destination.

An official Cultural District Designation will capitalize on the existing mountain of cultural events and venues, and will provide resources to people who know how to leverage them to their fullest potential. The additional distinction of this designation will allow us to promote events and venues to a much broader audience, thus becoming an important element in our economic development strategy.

**HISTORIC SMITHVILLE:** In 1827, Thomas Gazley settled near the Colorado River on a bluff where game often crossed; the store he operated became the center of the community. When the Bastrop and Taylor Railway moved to Smithville in 1887, Smithville's 17 families moved their homesteads from the River site to the Railroad location two miles west. Our Railroad Park and Museum are located at the juncture of the railroad and Main Street, and the Smithville Comprehensive Plan calls for developing a park at the end of Main Street on the Colorado River, where the original families built their homes.

According to 2010 Census Housing Characteristics data, about 20% of the current housing stock was built prior to 1940 and another 21% was built between 1940 and 1959. Many of the oldest homes are in the residential historic district, which would be included within the Cultural District. The Commercial Historic District includes 24 contributing and 16 non-contributing structures; the tour brochure of the Commercial District lists eight Texas Historic Medallions in the area. About 186 contributing structures qualify for a National Register plaque in the residential area. The Smithville Heritage Society is meticulous about researching historical facts and has a strong genealogical program, testaments to the importance of history in this town. The proposed branding of the Cultural District includes “From River to Railroad” will play heavily on the history of Smithville, arts, and natural resources, to help brand Smithville's strong ties to our cultural assets.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND STUDIO SPACE:** According to 2010 Census Housing Characteristics data, there are currently 1807 housing structures in the City of Smithville, including 282 with one bedroom, 582 with two bedrooms, and 15 efficiencies; approximately 41% of the population rents their homes



and 625 units are for rent in town. The median monthly rent is \$598 and nearly 20% pay less than \$300 monthly towards rent. Rent is less than 35% of household income for about 56% of the population that rents. Of the 540 homes that have a mortgage, about 41% pay less than \$1,000 a month, median monthly mortgages are \$1,097, and mortgage costs are less than 35% of household income for 75% of this population. These figures point to a relatively affordable climate for artists that might not be able to afford prices in Austin or Houston—or many other locations.

In addition, several locations in town would be appropriate studio spaces for fine arts and artisans, including several empty storefronts on Main Street. Playhouse Smithville is an existing model for the building-owner / artist-renter relationship we hope this program will foster. For a below-market rate, Playhouse Smithville has rented and become responsible for enhancing the space through routine maintenance as well as larger-scale improvements like installing central heat and air. Several other building owners of currently empty spaces have also expressed their interest in following the Playhouse Smithville model. In addition, “Samantics Squared” owners are interested in finding a curator for the gallery space at the front of the workshop, which would include free rent and generous terms on commissions to someone interested in working to promote, market, and sell all the artwork that they would create and/or curate.

A key element to future Cultural District programming includes an “Art Space” concept, which would help attract artists to the reasonable, affordable housing and studio space in town. In particular, the owner of the former Pines Hotel (one of our historic buildings) is interested in a potential public/private partnership to help renovate his hotel so that artists could live and work in these former hotel rooms. The Steering Committee commits to examining this issue in more detail to develop a workable solution for struggling artists, whether incoming or currently living here. The Steering Committee is adamantly opposed to solutions that would encourage gentrification, and seek to find a solution that will assist the “starving artists” in our community to build both their portfolios and their pocketbooks.

**PERFORMANCE SPACE:** Smithville is fortunate to have a quantity of cultural and entertainment venues that towns much larger cannot boast. Theater and stage space is currently available at: 1) Playhouse Smithville, an active community theater; 2) the Smithville Recreation Center; 3) the Smithville ISD “Red Brick” Building Auditorium (which includes a large proscenium stage with fixed seating for 400); 4) the Cafetorium space at the Elementary School; 5) the High School “Black Box” theater; 6) the American Legion Hall, which used to host a “Smithville Grant Opry” that some community members hope to revive; 7) the VFW Hall; and 8) Riverbend Park (which has two large indoor/outdoor stages). Several other locations are not currently readily available, but have potential based on their past activity.

In addition to the 50-acre Riverbend Park, several other community parks under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Department are perfect venues for outdoor events. The LPAA’s Mary Nichols Art Gallery is a public/private space art gallery that has hosted an Empty Bowl project three years running, with indoor gallery space as well as an outdoor venue for live music and entertainment. Independence Park will become another important outdoor venue once it is completed.

**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:** The Smithville Cultural District Steering Committee officially met for the first time in January of 2013 to begin this process and more formally propose, approve, and seek to implement projects. First, activities related to implementing associated programming (such as formalizing incentives, reaching out to prospective participants, and developing strong marketing strategies) have been discussed in more detail and a working plan is included in this document (Appendix C). The Steering Committee will begin to take action on various new activities suggested

through the Comprehensive Plan and other public meetings such as the “Taste of Smithville,” which would invite “foodies” to Main Street to partake of our many virtuoso chefs’ talents. Other proposed activities are discussed in more detail in Appendix C. These types of events host artists of all types, from woodworkers to face painters to musicians, and a Cultural District tie-in makes perfect sense.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Smithville is all about potential and the timing is right for the Cultural District Designation to make a real difference in the lives of people living here. Currently under construction, Independence Park is well on its way to becoming a central focus of the Cultural District. The Veterans Memorial Park was completed and dedicated in May 2013 and will soon become a well-utilized venue for activities, economic development, and historic research. The 2007 Smithville Comprehensive Plan proposes walking trails, picnic facilities, and other amenities that would link the city with Riverbend Park and with Buescher State Park, which are currently only accessible off SH 95 or Hwy 71—many members of the community long for a hike/bike trail that would allow people to get there by foot. The area south of the confluence of Gazley Creek and the Colorado River is identified in the future land use plan as an area to link people by foot to the Colorado River via a hike and bike trail, eventually to end up at Riverbend Park, and Independence Park would be the gateway.

**WALKING ROUTES:** With the Cultural District designation, the Steering Committee would enhance already available walking tours in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Heritage Society, LPAA’s signage program for art in public places, and any other associated community organization. In addition to the walking tours, a driving/cycling tour will be developed. In 2012, the sitting Judge in Smithville purchased four electric bicycles (regular bicycles with an electric motor) from Rocket Cycles, which he will rent to anyone who wants to get around town. Smithville is roughly two miles in diameter, so travel by bicycle is not difficult. The Smithville Safe Routes to School program is prepared to break ground in June 2013 to build about 25 blocks of sidewalks, which will help any future walking tour activities. The proposed Smithville Cultural District includes two major roadways: Hwy 95 on the west border and Loop 230 down the center of town. Signage will be prominently displayed along these heavily trafficked roads and walking route markers would be included along other roads within the District. Parking is abundant. The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and all businesses operating within the proposed Cultural District will offer the proposed walking tour map, which will also be available online through foursquare, QR codes and other social media and cell phone technology.

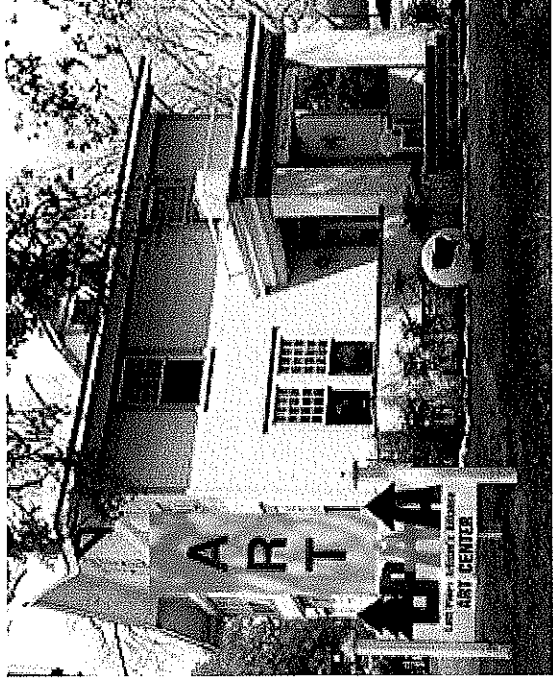
**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT:** The public areas of the proposed Cultural District are fully compliant with ADA requirements. Property owners in the proposed District are required by city ordinance to make necessary improvements to ensure ADA access when applying for building permits.

## Attachment 1: Smithville Photo Gallery

1. Smithville Music & Film Commission (representative photos from films shot in Smithville)



2. Mary Nichols Art Gallery: [www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org](http://www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org)



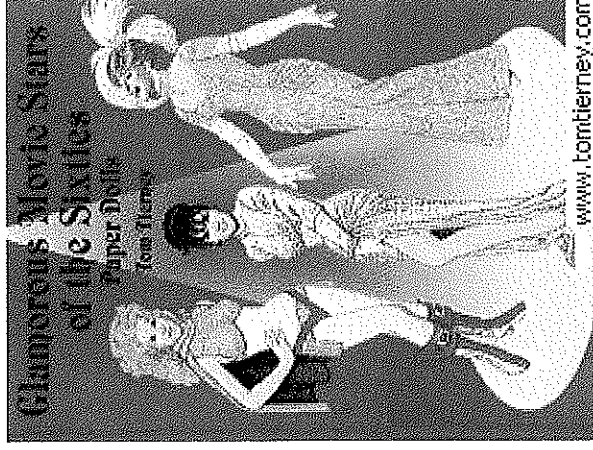
3. Playhouse Smithville: [www.playhousesmithville.com](http://www.playhousesmithville.com)



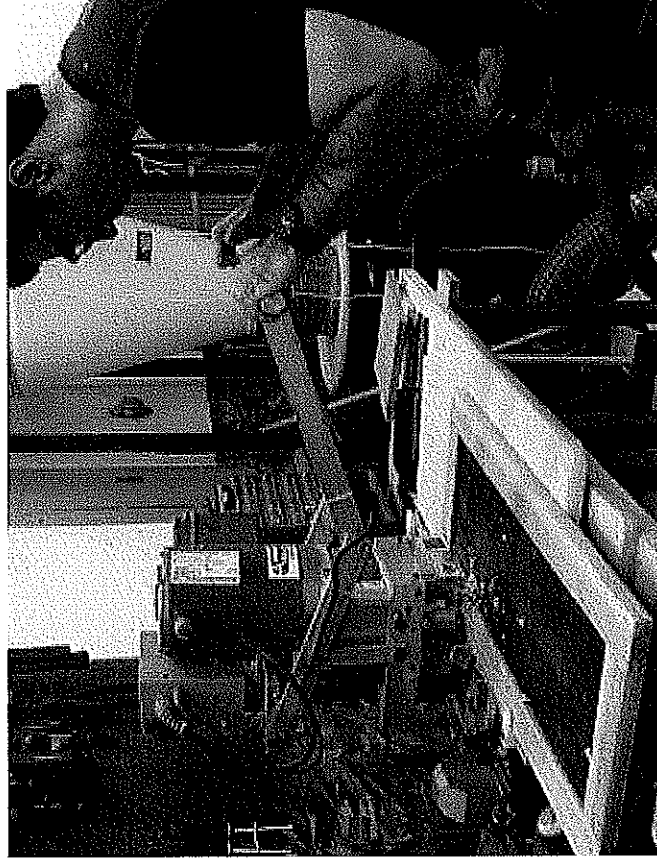
4. Bill McGlaun's Studio



6. Tom-Kat Paper Dolls: <http://www.tomtierney.com/index.htm>



5. Samantics Squared: [www.samantics2.com](http://www.samantics2.com)



7. James H. Long Railroad Park/Train Museum



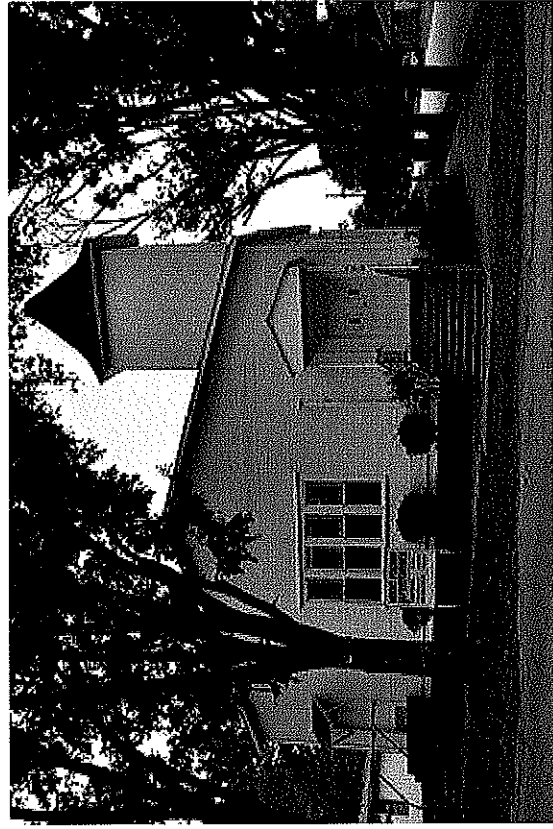
8. Smithville Heritage Museum



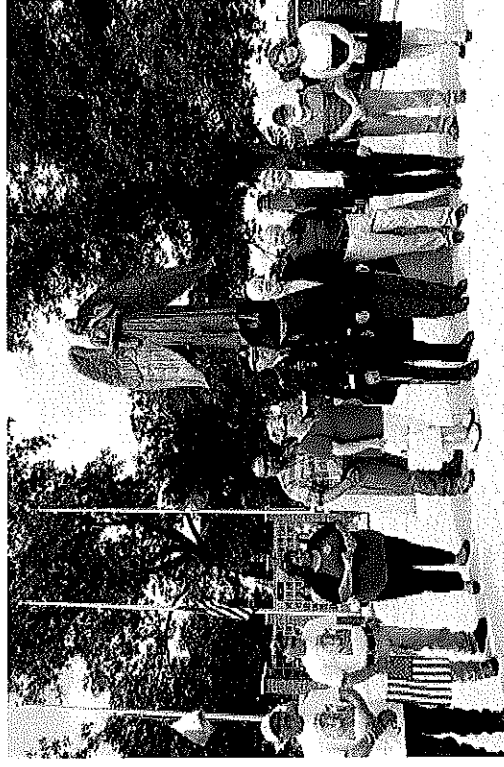
10. Central School



9. Mt. Pilgrim Bapt. Church



11. Veteran's Memorial Park: [www.texasmemorialpark.org](http://www.texasmemorialpark.org)  
(Dedication: 5/27/13)



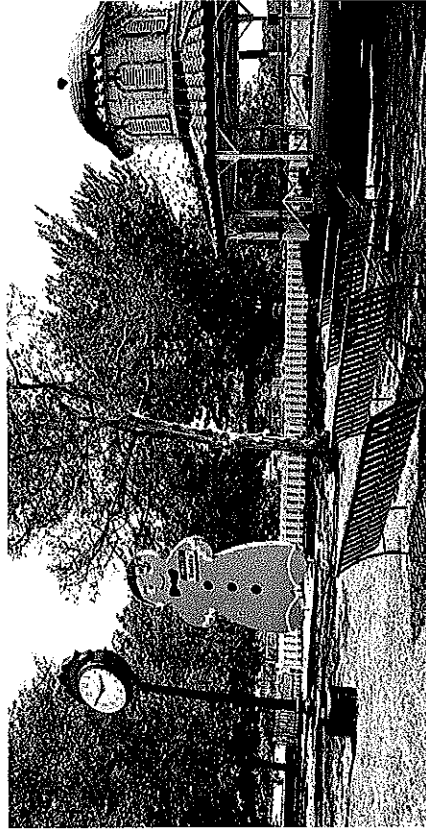
*Angel Sculpture by Bill McGlaun*



12. Red Brick Building Auditorium



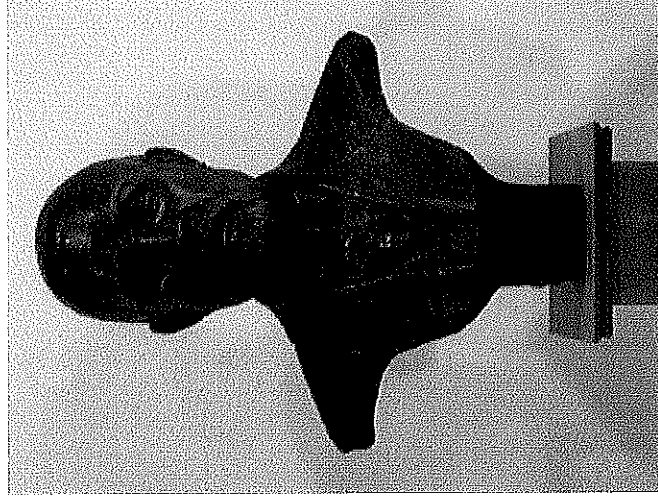
13. "Smitty" 2006 Guinness Book of World Records World's Largest Gingerbread Man (located in James H. Long Railroad Park)



14. Riverbend Park (performance areas/outside stage)



15. Independence Park (proposed gateway to Cultural District)



*Bust of Thomas Gazley by Bill McGlaun*

## **Attachment 2: Financial Information**

- a. Proposed Smithville Cultural District Financial Plan (3 year)
- b. Audited Financial Statement, City of Smithville (2012-1013)

NOTE: This is only the summary pages from a much larger document. If you would like to have a copy of the entire Statement, please contact Jill Strube (512 237 3282 x 2109 / [jstrube@ci.smithville.tx.us](mailto:jstrube@ci.smithville.tx.us)) who will be happy to provide it to you.

Thank you.

## Smithville Cultural District Anticipated Budget

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>1st Year</b>	<b>2nd Year</b>	<b>3rd Year</b>	<b>Combined Totals</b>
Staff Costs	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$7,200.00
Director/Manager Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Director/Manager Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Support Staff Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel Expenditures	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00

**\*All labor is volunteer-based with the exception of the City grant writer, who expects to spend roughly 80-100 hours annually.**

<b>Operating Costs</b>				
Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,600.00
Telephone/Communications	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,250.00
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$450.00
Office Equipment	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$500.00	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,250.00
Printing/Photocopying	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00

**\*Operating costs will be incurred by LPAA as Cultural District will be officed in the LPAA building.**

**\*NOTE: LPAA is housed in a city- owned historic building. At no additional cost, this will be the primary office space for cultural district/art center headquarters.**

<b>Contract Costs</b>				
Advertising/Public Relations	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$6,500.00
Professional Service Fees*	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
Misc.	\$400.00	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$1,350.00

**\*Includes in-kind artist design fees.**

<b>Program Costs</b>				
Cultural Resources Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Business Development Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Marketing/Promotion Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Organization Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Design Committee	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contingency	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$10,450.00</b>	<b>\$13,550.00</b>	<b>\$17,400.00</b>	<b>\$41,400.00</b>
---------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

<b>Sources of Income</b>				
<b>Private Contributions</b>	<b>1st Year</b>	<b>2nd Year</b>	<b>3rd Year</b>	<b>Combined Totals</b>
Government (City County**)	\$12,150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$12,450.00
Partnerships	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$6,500.00
Grants (projected)	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$45,000.00
Loans	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
In-Kind Contributions*	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$36,000.00
Other (Donations and Fundraising)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$65,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$55,650.00</b>	<b>\$49,650.00</b>	<b>\$59,650.00</b>	<b>\$164,950.00</b>

\*\* The first year figure includes the land and preparation of Independence Park (estimated at \$12,000)

NOTE: All expenditures are estimates, based on fundraising and grant writing efforts. The budget will change as fundraising efforts continue.



**CITY OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

**Trlicek & Co., P.C.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
LA GRANGE, TEXAS

**CITY OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

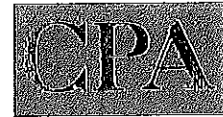
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**CITY OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS**  
**DIRECTORY OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
<u>Elected Officials</u>	
Mayor	Mark A. Bunte
Council Member – Place 1	Robert Tamble
Council Member – Place 2	Mike Kahanek (1)
Council Member – Place 3	Lenel Tamez
Council Member – Place 4	Joanna Morgan
Council Member – Place 5	Scott Saunders
<u>Appointed Officials</u>	
City Manager	Price B. Middlebrook, IV
City Secretary	Brenda C. Page
Finance Director	Cynthia White
Public Works Director/Fire Marshall/ City Inspector	Jack T. Page, Jr.
Police Chief	Rudy Supak
City Attorney	Sheets & Crossfield, P.C.
Bond Counsel	Fulbright & Jaworski, L L P.
Financial Advisor	Southwest Securities

(1) Mayor Pro-tem



**TRLICEK & CO., P.C.**  
Certified Public Accountants  
113 W. Colorado St.  
P.O. Box 817  
La Grange, TX 78945  
(979) 968-9635

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
City of Smithville  
Smithville, Texas 78934

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Smithville, Texas (the City) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2012, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These general financial statements are the responsibility of the City of Smithville, Texas' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these basic financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Smithville, Texas, as of September 30, 2012, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 3, 2013 on our consideration of the City of Smithville, Texas' internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the results of that compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 3 through 10 is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements of the City of Smithville, Texas taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the City of Smithville, Texas. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Trlicek & Co., P.C.*

Trlicek & Co., P.C.

April 3, 2013

**Table I**  
**City of Smithville, Texas**  
**Net Assets**

	Governmental Activities 2012	Business-Type Activities 2012	Total 2012
Current and other assets	\$ 1,773,829	\$ 4,838,885	\$ 6,612,714
Capital assets	5,882,544	5,413,081	11,295,625
Total assets	<u>7,656,373</u>	<u>10,251,966</u>	<u>17,908,339</u>
			-
Current liabilities	179,727	388,500	568,227
Noncurrent liabilities	3,061,040	4,463,960	7,525,000
Total liabilities	<u>3,240,767</u>	<u>4,852,460</u>	<u>8,093,227</u>
Net Assets:			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,821,504	2,460,721	5,282,225
Restricted	400,788	60,764	461,552
Unrestricted	1,193,314	2,878,021	4,071,335
Total net assets	<u>\$ 4,415,606</u>	<u>\$ 5,399,506</u>	<u>\$ 9,815,112</u>

	Governmental Activities 2011	Business-Type Activities 2011	Total 2011
Current and other assets	\$ 1,611,786	\$ 4,729,229	\$ 6,341,015
Capital assets	6,056,104	5,251,510	11,307,614
Total assets	<u>7,667,890</u>	<u>9,980,739</u>	<u>17,648,629</u>
			-
Current liabilities	131,653	415,838	547,491
Noncurrent liabilities	3,259,840	4,675,160	7,935,000
Total liabilities	<u>3,391,493</u>	<u>5,090,998</u>	<u>8,482,491</u>
Net Assets:			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,796,264	2,087,950	4,884,214
Restricted	402,016	57,131	459,147
Unrestricted	1,078,117	2,744,660	3,822,777
Total net assets	<u>\$ 4,276,397</u>	<u>\$ 4,889,741</u>	<u>\$ 9,166,138</u>

## THE CITY'S FUNDS

As the City completed the year, its governmental funds (as presented in the balance sheet on page 13) reported a combined fund balance of \$1,518,831; which is above last year's total of \$1,413,941.

## CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

### Capital Assets

At the end of 2012, the City had \$11,295,625 invested in a broad range of capital assets, including land, infrastructure, buildings and improvements, and machinery and equipment. This amount represents a net decrease of \$11,989.

**Table III**

**City of Smithville, Texas**

### Capital Assets

	Governmental Activities 2012	Business-Type Activities 2012	Total 2012
Land	\$ 587,728	\$ 172,319	\$ 760,047
Infrastructure	3,331,849	10,235,933	13,567,782
Buildings and improvements	4,157,761	-	4,157,761
Machinery and equipment	2,105,840	1,124,964	3,230,804
	10,183,178	11,533,216	21,716,394
Less accumulated depreciation	(4,300,634)	(6,120,135)	(10,420,769)
Capital assets, net of depreciation	<u>\$ 5,882,544</u>	<u>\$ 5,413,081</u>	<u>\$11,295,625</u>

	Governmental Activities 2011	Business-Type Activities 2011	Total 2011
Land	\$ 587,728	\$ 172,319	\$ 760,047
Infrastructure	3,331,849	10,235,933	13,567,782
Buildings and improvements	4,157,761	-	4,157,761
Machinery and equipment	2,068,320	673,511	2,741,831
	10,145,658	11,081,763	21,227,421
Less accumulated depreciation	(4,089,554)	(5,830,253)	(9,919,807)
Capital assets, net of depreciation	<u>\$ 6,056,104</u>	<u>\$ 5,251,510</u>	<u>\$11,307,614</u>

## Debt

At year-end, the City had \$7,562,268 in bonds and notes outstanding versus \$7,975,065 last year.

Other obligations include compensated absences. More detailed information about the City's long-term liabilities is presented in the notes to the financial statements.

**Table IV**  
**City of Smithville, Texas**  
**Debt**

	Governmental Activities 2012	Business-Type Activities 2012	Total 2012
Bonds	\$ 3,061,040	\$ 4,463,960	\$ 7,525,000
Compensated absences	30,996	6,272	37,268
	<u>\$ 3,092,036</u>	<u>\$ 4,470,232</u>	<u>\$ 7,562,268</u>

	Governmental Activities 2011	Business-Type Activities 2011	Total 2011
Bonds	\$ 3,259,840	\$ 4,675,160	\$ 7,935,000
Compensated absences	33,270	6,795	40,065
	<u>\$ 3,293,110</u>	<u>\$ 4,681,955</u>	<u>\$ 7,975,065</u>

## CONTACTING THE CITY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the City's finances and to show the City's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the City's business office, at City of Smithville, Texas, 317 Main Street, Smithville, Texas 78957-0449.



**CITY OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS**  
**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS**  
**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business Type Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 431,749	\$ 1,734,041	\$ 2,165,790
Investments - Current	726,940	15,263	742,203
Receivables (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	795,790	1,202,337	1,998,127
Internal Balances	(237,350)	238,263	913
Due from Others	-	-	-
Inventories	-	76,617	76,617
Prepaid items	56,700	-	56,700
Restricted Assets:			
Investments	-	1,572,364	1,572,364
Capital Assets:			
Land	587,728	172,319	760,047
Buildings and Improvements	4,157,761	-	4,157,761
Machinery and Equipment	2,105,840	1,124,964	3,230,804
Infrastructure	3,331,849	10,235,933	13,567,782
	<u>10,183,178</u>	<u>11,533,216</u>	<u>21,716,394</u>
Accumulated Depreciation - Capital Assets	<u>(4,300,634)</u>	<u>(6,120,135)</u>	<u>(10,420,769)</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>5,882,544</u>	<u>5,413,081</u>	<u>11,295,625</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>7,656,373</u></u>	<u><u>10,251,966</u></u>	<u><u>17,908,339</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	148,731	296,703	445,434
Customer Deposits	-	85,525	85,525
Compensated Absences Payable	30,996	6,272	37,268
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Due Within One Year	203,800	221,200	425,000
Due in More Than One Year	<u>2,857,240</u>	<u>4,242,760</u>	<u>7,100,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,240,767</u>	<u>4,852,460</u>	<u>8,093,227</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Investments in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	2,821,504	2,460,721	5,282,225
Restricted for:			
Debt Service	308,467	-	308,467
Capital Improvements	29,781	60,764	90,545
Specific Purposes	62,540	-	62,540
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>1,193,314</u>	<u>2,878,021</u>	<u>4,071,335</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 4,415,606</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,399,506</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 9,815,112</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**CITY OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS**  
**STATEMENT OF NET ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

		Program Revenues	
		Charges for	Operating
	Expenses	Services	Grants and Contributions
<b>Primary Government</b>			
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:			
General Government	\$ 1,201,744	\$ 285,779	\$ 470,036
Public Safety	1,004,391	1,852	-
Highways and Streets	341,401	2,820	-
Sanitation	594,976	573,484	-
Culture and Recreation	879,070	62,786	-
Code Enforcement and Inspections	81,545	-	-
Cemetery	66,479	20,521	-
Airport	55,561	-	-
Interest on Debt	123,982	-	-
Total Governmental Activities:	<u>4,349,149</u>	<u>947,242</u>	<u>470,036</u>
BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES:			
Utility Fund	<u>5,053,818</u>	<u>6,200,981</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Business-Type Activities:	<u>5,053,818</u>	<u>6,200,981</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT:</b>	<u><u>\$ 9,402,967</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,148,223</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 470,036</u></u>

**General Revenues:**

**Taxes:**

Property Taxes, Levied for General Purposes

Property Taxes, Levied for Debt Service

Sales Taxes

Other Taxes

Rents and Royalties

Licenses and Permits

Fines

Miscellaneous

Investment Earnings

Transfers In (Out)

**Total General Revenues and Transfers**

**Change in Net Assets**

**Net Assets-Beginning**

**Net Assets-Ending**

**CITY OF SMITHVILLE, TEXAS**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Governmental Funds</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 381,056	\$ 50,693	\$ 431,749
Investments - Current	388,692	338,248	726,940
Taxes Receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	68,930	37,337	106,267
Receivables (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	603,752	11,847	615,599
Sales Tax Receivable	73,924	-	73,924
Due from Other Funds	91,020	-	91,020
Due from Others	-	-	-
Prepaid expenses	56,700	-	56,700
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,664,074</u>	<u>\$ 438,125</u>	<u>\$ 2,102,199</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	148,731	-	148,731
Due to Other Funds	328,370	-	328,370
Deferred Revenues	68,930	37,337	106,267
Total Liabilities	<u>546,031</u>	<u>37,337</u>	<u>583,368</u>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>			
Reserved For:			
Debt Service	-	308,467	308,467
Unreserved			
Reported in the General Fund	1,118,043	-	1,118,043
Reported in the Special Revenue Funds	-	62,540	62,540
Reported in the Capital Projects Funds	-	29,781	29,781
Total Fund Balances	<u>1,118,043</u>	<u>400,788</u>	<u>1,518,831</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,664,074</u>	<u>\$ 438,125</u>	<u>\$ 2,102,199</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.



---

**Exempt Organizations Select Check**

[Exempt Organizations Select Check Home](#)

**990-N (e-Postcard) filer information**

---

**Tax Period:**

2011 (07/01/2011 - 06/30/2012)

**Employer Identification Number (EIN):**

84-1715122

**Legal Name:**

LOST PINES ARTISANS ALLIANCE

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 121  
Smithville, TX 78957  
United States

**Doing Business As:**

**Gross receipts not greater than:**

\$50,000

**Organization has terminated:**

No

**Principal Officer's Name and Address:**

Cammy Snyder  
PO Box 121  
Smithville, TX 78957  
United States

**Website URL:**

lostpinesartisansalliance.org

### **Attachment 3: Copy of LPAA 501(c)(3) Designation Letter**

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 06 2008**

LOST PINES ARTISANS ALLIANCE  
C/O LES WARREN  
PO BOX 121  
SMITHVILLE, TX 78957

Employer Identification Number:  
84-1715122  
DIN:  
17053085358028  
Contact Person:  
JACK D NEITZEL ID# 95127  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
June 30  
Public Charity Status:  
509(a)(2)  
Form 990 Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
September 10, 2007  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Advance Ruling Ending Date:  
June 30, 2012  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. During your advance ruling period, you will be treated as a public charity. Your advance ruling period begins with the effective date of your exemption and ends with advance ruling ending date shown in the heading of the letter.

Shortly before the end of your advance ruling period, we will send you Form 8734, Support Schedule for Advance Ruling Period. You will have 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period to return the completed form. We will then notify you, in writing, about your public charity status.

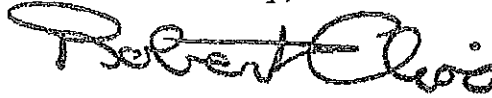
Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)

LOST PINES ARTISANS ALLIANCE

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Choi".

Robert Choi  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Publication 4221-PC  
Statute Extension

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)

**Part X Public Charity Status (Continued)**

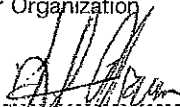
- e 509(a)(4)—an organization organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safety. ☐
- f 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)—an organization operated for the benefit of a college or university that is owned or operated by a governmental unit. ☐
- g 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)—an organization that receives a substantial part of its financial support in the form of contributions from publicly supported organizations, from a governmental unit, or from the general public. ☐
- h 509(a)(2)—an organization that normally receives not more than one-third of its financial support from gross investment income and receives more than one-third of its financial support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions). ☐
- i A publicly supported organization, but unsure if it is described in 5g or 5h. The organization would like the IRS to decide the correct status. ☒

6 If you checked box g, h, or i in question 5 above, you must request either an advance or a definitive ruling by selecting one of the boxes below. Refer to the instructions to determine which type of ruling you are eligible to receive.

- a **Request for Advance Ruling:** By checking this box and signing the consent, pursuant to section 6501(c)(4) of the Code you request an advance ruling and agree to extend the statute of limitations on the assessment of excise tax under section 4940 of the Code. The tax will apply only if you do not establish public support status at the end of the 5-year advance ruling period. The assessment period will be extended for the 5 advance ruling years to 8 years, 4 months, and 15 days beyond the end of the first year. You have the right to refuse or limit the extension to a mutually agreed-upon period of time or issue(s). Publication 1035, *Extending the Tax Assessment Period*, provides a more detailed explanation of your rights and the consequences of the choices you make. You may obtain Publication 1035 free of charge from the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or by calling toll-free 1-800-829-3676. Signing this consent will not deprive you of any appeal rights to which you would otherwise be entitled. If you decide not to extend the statute of limitations, you are not eligible for an advance ruling. ☒

**Consent Fixing Period of Limitations Upon Assessment of Tax Under Section 4940 of the Internal Revenue Code**

For Organization

  
(Signature of Officer, Director, Trustee, or other authorized official)

LES WARREN

(Type or print name of signer)

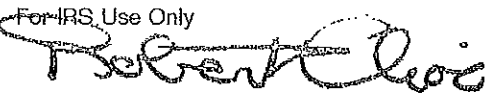
PRESIDENT, BD OF DIRS.

(Type or print title or authority of signer)

10-17-07

(Date)

For IRS Use Only

  
IRS Director, Exempt Organizations

AUG 06 2008

(Date)

- b **Request for Definitive Ruling:** Check this box if you have completed one tax year of at least 8 full months and you are requesting a definitive ruling. To confirm your public support status, answer line 6b(i) if you checked box g in line 5 above. Answer line 6b(ii) if you checked box h in line 5 above. If you checked box i in line 5 above, answer both lines 6b(i) and (ii). ☐

(i) (a) Enter 2% of line 8, column (e) on Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses. \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Attach a list showing the name and amount contributed by each person, company, or organization whose gifts totaled more than the 2% amount. If the answer is "None," check this box. ☐

(ii) (a) For each year amounts are included on lines 1, 2, and 9 of Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, attach a list showing the name of and amount received from each **disqualified person**. If the answer is "None," check this box. ☐

(b) For each year amounts are included on line 9 of Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, attach a list showing the name of and amount received from each payer, other than a disqualified person, whose payments were more than the larger of (1) 1% of line 10, Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses, or (2) \$5,000. If the answer is "None," check this box. ☐

- 7 Did you receive any unusual grants during any of the years shown on Part IX-A, Statement of Revenues and Expenses? If "Yes," attach a list including the name of the contributor, the date and amount of the grant, a brief description of the grant, and explain why it is unusual. ☐ Yes ☐ No



# **Appendix A**

Public Notices and Public Meetings

(Including blogs, website, e-mails, fliers, informational items, newspaper articles, sign in sheets)

# The Smithville Times

Serving Bastrop County for more than 117 years

90° F

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

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statesman.com  
with  
AutoTrader

ANNOUNCEMENTS COLUMNISTS COMMUNITY DOING BUSINESS WITH THE TIMES MEETINGS & AREA EVENTS NEWS OBITUARIES  
OPINION SMITHVILLE SCHOOLS SPORTS

## NEWS / TOP STORIES

### Cultural district puts Smithville center stage

Thursday, May 17, 2012 | Denis McGinness

The City of Smithville, in partnership with the Lost Pines Artisan's Alliance, is preparing an application with the Texas Commission on the Arts for a Cultural District designation for the city. Several public meetings have been held to explain the benefits of the designation and to seek citizen input on the measure.

LPAA board secretary April Daniels led the meetings with the assistance of Jill Strube, city grants writer. Daniels and her husband John, an actor, director and playwright, run Playhouse Smithville on Main Street.

"A cultural district designation tells the public that an area is very culturally significant and lets them know that they should visit and learn about the area," Daniels explained. "And when they do spend time here, they usually spend money."

At a lunch meeting last week, Daniels told a group that the benefits of the cultural designation go beyond tourism.

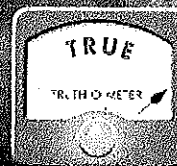
"Ever heard of demolition by neglect?" Daniels asked. "We can see that along our Main Street. The cultural designation gets the ball rolling the other way. It provides incentives and access to grants that can help revitalize our city."



There are 16 cities in Texas that have received the official state designation for their cultural districts, ranging from large metropolitan areas like Dallas and Houston to much smaller communities

like Huntsville and Winnsboro.

Separating fact from fiction.  
**PolitiFactTexas.com**



## More in News

Runoffs, surprises this election night

New council members sworn in

Helping the Colorado

School board declines appeal after food fight

\$20 million for rebuilding

Photos: Browse & Buy



2012 Smithville High School  
Graduation  
5/26/2012



Jamboree  
Coronation Part 2 -  
Pageant Fun  
4/10/2012



Jamboree Coronation of the  
Queen - Part 1 - The  
Contestants  
4/9/2012



Blue Bunny Egg  
Hunt  
4/6/2012

Typically a cultural district is a mixed-use area of a community that has a high concentration of cultural facilities; art institutions, parks, restaurants, music and theater venues and popular attractions, which can serve as a draw for tourists and residents.

Cultural districts include a variety of art disciplines including music, theater, dance, visual art, art education, literature, written and spoken word and cultural outreach.

Besides revitalization from tourism and access to grant dollars, a cultural district designation can attract businesses, enhance property values and provide an expansion in the tax base. A revitalized district also serves as an incubator for a creative and innovative environment according to Daniels, which happens when artists work with building owners to seek incentive financing for renovations.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to create a boundary for the cultural district. The area should be walkable from a central hub, which is considered to be Main Street. Each meeting netted a different footprint for the district.

The district can also have an "overlay," which is an area that's outside the main boundary that contains culturally or historically significant locations. In Smithville's case, an overlay would also have movie locations, which have proven to be a draw for the film friendly community.

Carol Snyder and David Herrington of the Smithville Heritage Society will provide historical material for the application.

Daniels pointed out that the designation does not impose any regulation on property owners, buildings or businesses in the district.

"There's no effect whatsoever on zoning," Daniels explained. "There's no authority to require us to do anything."

A city council resolution supporting the application is pending.

A final preliminary meeting on the Cultural District Program is planned for MLK Park (MLK and Miller Streets) for Tuesday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will feature free hot dogs and beverages.

The application will be sent to the Texas Commission on the Arts to meet a June 1 deadline.

For more information, contact Daniels at [playhousesmithville@yahoo.com](mailto:playhousesmithville@yahoo.com) or Strube at [JStrube@ci.smithville.tx.us](mailto:JStrube@ci.smithville.tx.us).



Texas Independence Relay  
Race  
4/5/2012

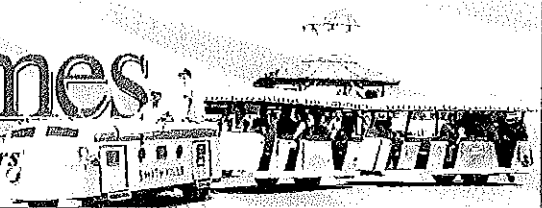


Classic Car Auction  
3/11/2012

[More Photos »](#)

# The Smithville Times

Serving Bastrop County for more than 117 years



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Wednesday, May 30, 2012

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ANNOUNCEMENTS COLUMNISTS COMMUNITY DOING BUSINESS WITH THE TIMES MEETINGS & AREA EVENTS NEWS OBITUARIES  
OPINION SMITHVILLE SCHOOLS SPORTS

## NEWS / TOP STORIES

### Cultural District meetings next week

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 | Denis McGinness

Three "Cultural District Footprint" meetings will be held to discuss an application with the Texas Commission of the Arts for a cultural district designation for the city.

The meetings will provide information on the project and help determine boundaries for the district.

#### Meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall

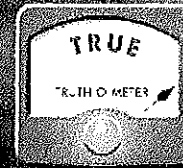
Thursday, May 10, noon at Pocket's Grille

Saturday, May 12, 10:30 a.m. at City Hall

With the Cultural District designation the city could be eligible to apply for a variety of grants, including facade and streetscape beautification, signage, and rent subsidies for building owners.

April Daniels from Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance and Playhouse Smithville will facilitate the meetings.

Separating fact from fiction.  
**PolitiFactTexas.com**



#### More in News

Runoffs, surprises this election night



New council members sworn in

Helping the Colorado



School board declines appeal after food fight

\$20 million for rebuilding

<http://www.statesman.com/news/local/community-briefing-families-dogs-to-gather-for-anniversary-2368901.html?printArticle=y>

  [www.statesman.com/news/local/community-briefing-families-dogs-to-gather-for-anniversar](http://www.statesman.com/news/local/community-briefing-families-dogs-to-gather-for-anniversar) ☆

1/1/2012 10:38:51 AM

 Print this page  Close

## Community Briefing: Families, dogs to gather for anniversary of rescue; Bee Cave council to consider sports complex

Updated: 10:38 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2012  
Published: 10:35 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2012

### SMITHVILLE

#### Deadline nears as city seeks cultural district

The City of Smithville, in partnership with the Lost Pines Artisan's Alliance, is preparing an application with the Texas Commission on the Arts for a Cultural District designation for the city. The city held a series of public meetings to explain the benefits of the designation and to seek residents' input on the measure.

"A cultural district designation tells the public that an area is very culturally significant and lets them know that they should visit and learn about the area," LPAA board secretary April Daniels said. "And when they do spend time here, they usually spend money."

Typically, cultural districts are mixed-use areas with a high concentration of cultural facilities, parks and restaurants that may draw in tourists and help residents buy locally. There are 16 cities in Texas that have received the official state designation for their cultural districts, ranging from large metropolitan areas such as Dallas to much smaller communities like Huntsville.

A final preliminary meeting on the program is planned for MLK Park on May 29 at 6:30 p.m.

- Denis McGinness, The Smithville Times

<http://www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org/>



## SMITHVILLE CULTURAL DISTRICT APPLICATION

The Lost Pines Artisan's Alliance and the City of Smithville are partnering to prepare an application for designation of a Smithville Cultural District. Public meetings have been held to discuss the "footprint" of the proposed District. Join us for the final public meeting.

WHERE: MLK Park  
(MLK Dr. and Miller)

WHEN: Tuesday, May 29, 6:30PM

Free hot dogs and beverages! We want YOUR input to put Smithville on the Map!

- Where are the landmarks?
- What are the stories?
- Who knows the history?
- What should the boundaries of the Cultural District include?

Ask how you can join in the  
discussion on this project.

## Smithville Cultural District Meeting Notices

May 8, 2012; May 12, 2012; May 29, 2012; May 21, 2013

Utilities | Public Works | Police Department | Fire Department | Municipal Court | Parks & Recreation | Airport | Public Library |

Home

## City of Smithville Events

### Cultural District Footprint

### City of Smithville Calendar

< May 2012 >						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5 "Go Wild in Smithville"
6	7	8 Cultural District Footprint	9	10 Emancipet in Smithville Cultural District Footprint	11	12 Cultural District Footprint
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Memorial Park Celebration
20	21 Smithville City Council Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Final Cultural District Footprint Meeting	30	31	1	2

Event location: City Hall  
317 Main Street

Event date and time: 5/8/2012 4:00:00 PM

The City of Smithville will be applying as a Cultural District through the Texas Commission on the Arts in June of 2012. Part of the application requires community input to help determine the "footprint" of the district – what the boundaries should be. Please join us for that conversation.

In the second week of May, three Cultural District Footprint public meetings will take place:

Tuesday, May 8 at 6PM at City Hall.  
Thursday, May 10 at noon at Pockets for a working lunch.  
Saturday, May 12 at 10:30AM at City Hall.

Please join us for any one or more of those meetings! Shortly after the meetings, a synopsis will be provided at the City website along with a short survey for anyone interested in the project who is unable to attend any of them.

Contact Jill Strube at 512 237 3282 x 2109 for more details.

Home

## City of Smithville Events

### Public Meeting: Cultural District Designation

### City of Smithville Calendar

< May 2013 >						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						4 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament
28	29	30	1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Lost Pines Wine Fest
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 May City Council Meeting	21 Public Meeting: Cultural District Designation	22	23	24	25
26	27 Veterans Memorial	28	29	30	31	1

Event location: LPAA Mary Nichols Art Center  
301 Burleson  
5:30PM

Event date and time: 5/21/2013 5:30:00 PM

Come to the LPAA's Mary Nichols Art Center to discuss the 2013 Smithville application for a Cultural District Designation.

You are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the Smithville application to become a designated Texas Cultural District. Please join us at the LPAA Mary Nichols Art Center at 5:30PM on Tuesday, May 21. If you are unable to attend, please take the online Cultural District Survey available on the blog on the city homepage.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013**

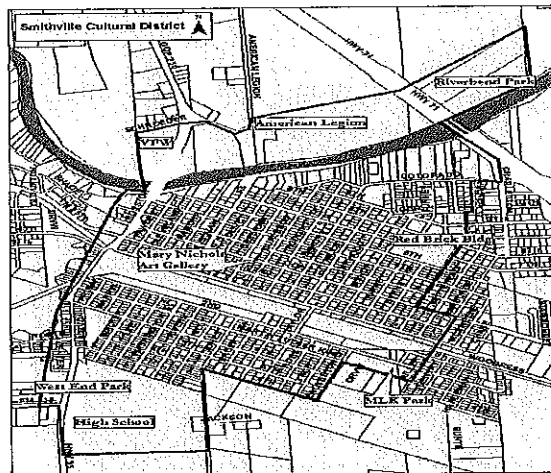
**LPAA GALLERY 301 BURLESON 5:30 PM**

**TO DISCUSS**

**THE PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION FOR A**

**SMITHVILLE'S**

**CULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION**



**MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT CAN BE FOUND AT**

<http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/City-Blog/City-of-Smithville-Blog/April-2013/Smithville-s-2013-Cultural-District-Application.aspx>



# Cultural District Footprint Meeting Series

- ☒ Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 6:30PM, City Hall  
☐ Thursday, May 10, 2012, noon, Pockets Grille  
☐ Saturday, May 12, 2012, 10:30AM, City Hall

Sign In: Name and Contact Info

	Name	Phone	Email / Mailing Address
1	Richard Latham	360-4608	rdlatham@earthlink.net
2	Apena Lewis	237-2313	Chamlin@smithville.tx
3	Cammy Snyder	(512) 304-8129	CSNYDER@MYKOL.NET
4	Mark a. Brife	718-3189	mbrife@c1.smithville.tx.us
5	Colin Scott	599-3581	Colin.Scott7@Yahoo
6	E.G. Alexander	360-3083	one.eleven.stone@mac.com
7	Jess Stuber		
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# Cultural District Footprint Meeting Series

\_\_\_ Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 6:30PM, City Hall

✓ Thursday, May 10, 2012, noon, Pockets Grille

\_\_\_ Saturday, May 12, 2012, 10:30AM, City Hall

Sign In: Name and Contact Info

	Name	Phone	Email / Mailing Address
1	David L. Herrington	512-360-2393	dherrington1@austin.rr.com
2	Keridwyn Hershuber	512-468-6607	info@devonshire.org
3	Joanna Morgan	512-237-5283	joanna.morgan@earthlink.net
4	Carol Snyder	830-839-4080	KD5BSX@ARRL.NET
5	Edward Alexander	512-360-3083	same as before
6	Denis McGinness	321-8632	dmcginness@smithvilletimes.com
7	Joe Kindred	830-839-4332	joekindred@myxol.net
8	KAREN BOEHK	512-581-2814	KSBOEHK3@JUNO.COM
9	Sam Blasco	512-377-9244	POSTROMAG@YAHOO.COM
10	Jill Stuber		
11			
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22			

# Cultural District Footprint Meeting Series

☐ Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 6:30PM, City Hall

☐ Thursday, May 10, 2012, noon, Pockets Grille

☒ Saturday, May 12, 2012, 10:30AM, City Hall

Sign In: Name and Contact Info

	Name	Phone	Email / Mailing Address
1	WALTER & JERI WINSLETT	512-360-2531	pineboy@smithville.livemail.net
2	tina Smith	(512) 988-0052	tina.willhace@yahoo.com
3	Al et	512-360-3083	
4	Jim Stuber		
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# Cultural District Footprint Meeting Series

Tuesday, May 29, 2012, 6:30PM, MLK Park

Sign In: Name and Contact Info

	Name	Phone	Email / Mailing Address
1	Mike Morgan	237-5283	mmorgan2@earthlink.net
2	Michele Ruthenfox	284.3260	wmruthenfox@aetnsw.com
3	Joanna Morgan	237-5283	joanna.morgan@earthlink.net
4	Elena Schroeder	237-2205	princesshuio5@yahoo.com
5	Steve Schroeder	237-2205	sschroeder@smithville.isd.net
6	Taylor Aschermann	(832)368-7199	tbq004@shsu.edu
7	Sam Basco	377 9244	
8	Eduard Alexander	360-3083	
9	Bill Slette		my78937@yahoo.
10	Jim Horton		jvh284@yahoo.com
11	Cammy Snyder		
12	Curtis Burleson	979-702-8719	
13	Judith M. Bergeron	848-5377	j.m.bergeron13@yahoo.com
14	Jim Stutts		
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			

# Sign In - C P A A

## Cultural District Public Meeting

5/21/13

Name

Contact info

CRYSTAL KINDRED

512-791-3114 / CKINDRED0007@gmail.com

JILL KINDRED

512-331-8895 / JCKINDRED@gmail.com

David L. Harrington

512-360-2393 dharrington1@austin.rr.com

Edina and Alexander

512 851 3150

Christina Broussard

512 237-3977 / tgbroussard1@yahoo.com

Blanda Butler

512-431-9558 blanda.butler@gmail.com

Kent Baker Letter

kentbaker1@gmail.com 512-663-1005

Jana Smith

(512) 988-0052 jnaewithace@yahoo.com

(\*) Sandy Hightower

(512) 879-8656 mhightower@aol.com

Johnny Garner

512) 988-9064

Carmy Snyder

(512) 304 8129 CarmySnyder@hotmail.com

Jill Stutts

(\*) PK Scott

512 633 9972 pkscott@rocketmail.com

Wants to be on the Steering Committee

# Appendix B: Community Support

Resolutions

Letters of Support

**Resolution # 2012-04-312**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CERTIFICATION OF A CULTURAL DISTRICT**

A Resolution authorizing certification of a cultural district for at least ten (10) years to be named:

**WHEREAS** a cultural district will be designated to assist the district and community to develop a public-private partnership to support said district and,

**WHEREAS** the Texas Commission on the Arts will be petitioned to designate said cultural district and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of Smithville, Texas:

*Article 1.* Endorses the submission of this application and agrees to participate in the development of said cultural district.

*Article 2.* Endorses the goal of tourism development of said cultural district within the context of contributing to the overall visitor development goals of the city.

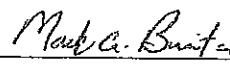
*Article 3.* Will appoint a city official to represent the city on the governing board of said cultural district.

*Article 4.* By this action, directs city staff to actively support and cooperate with governing board to develop and maintain said cultural district.

*Article 5.* By this action, requests all residents of city/county and especially those citizens who own property or businesses within said cultural district to support, promote and help maintain activities and events in said district.

*Article 6.* Directs the Mayor to sign and submit such resolution on creation of said cultural district.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Bunte, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda C. Page, City Secretary



Paul Pape  
Bastrop County Judge

May 28, 2013

Cultural District Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711-3406

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee:

On behalf of Bastrop County, please accept this letter of support for the collaboration between the City of Smithville and the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance in their application to seek a Cultural District Designation for the City of Smithville.

While Smithville is already culturally diverse with a wonderfully-engaged arts community, we believe that this designation will help the City of Smithville attract additional artists to the community, further develop existing cultural enterprises, promote Smithville as a tourist destination, encourage business and job development, and help preserve and reuse the important historic buildings in this historic town.

We are passionate about Smithville and see the true value of this small-town gem. Our hope is we can share and strengthen our artistic community through a Cultural District Program designation.

Thank you for considering our gem, Smithville, for the Cultural District Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Pape", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Pape  
County Judge



May 20, 2013

Tina Smith  
Vice President of Community Relations  
The Association of Citizens for Education (A.C.E.), 501 (c) 3

Cultural District Designation Committee,

I am writing in regards to the application the City of Smithville has submitted for the Cultural District Designation.

As a board member of The Association of Citizens for Education (A.C.E.), the local education foundation, I have seen firsthand how the Smithville community supports the arts. Due to funding cutbacks our school district does not have an Arts program in our Primary or Elementary schools. The students in our district did not have access to art, music or theater classes until they reach middle school. Considering that we are a community with a wealth of artist in the area we quickly went to work to help resolve this issue.

During the 2012/2013 school year A.C.E., the Lost Pines Artisan Alliance (LPAA) and Brown Primary school partnered together to host the "Brown Primary Enrichment Days". A.C.E. provided the funding for the project, LPAA artist created the lessons and led the sessions and Brown Primary school rearranged the daily schedule to ensure that every student Kindergarten thru Second grade got to participate in the enrichment sessions. We had so much success last year that we are expanding the program to include music and theater next school year. That will be led by our local community theater, Playhouse Smithville. We hope to continue to grow this program to include our elementary school as well. As you can see from these partnerships, despite budget issues facing our school district our community stepped up to ensure our youngest students did not go without the benefits of the arts.

I recently had another experience of how our community supports the arts. Our local community theater, Playhouse Smithville, was badly in need of better seating. Currently they have metal folding chairs. After sitting in one metal chair too many I decided we needed to get better seating. We started the "Ban the Metal Chairs" fundraiser where people could "sponsor" a new chair for the theater. Our goal was to get 60 chairs sponsored. In less than one month we had all of the chairs sponsored and we will have the new seating delivered within the next few weeks.

Receiving the Cultural District Designation will help Smithville expand our efforts to grow the arts in our community. I hope my letter provides you with some insight to how our community works together to support the arts. If I can provide any more information or if you have questions about the Brown Primary enrichment days or the "Ban the Metal Chair" fundraiser please feel free to call me at 512-988-0052.

Sincerely,

Tina Smith

MAYOR  
MARK BUNTE

MAYOR PROTEM  
MIKE KAHANEK

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
LENEL TAMEZ  
JOANNA MORGAN  
SCOTT SAUNDERS  
ROBERT TAMBLE

CITY MANAGER  
TEX MIDDLEBROOK



317 MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 449  
SMITHVILLE, TEXAS  
78957  
(512) 237-3282  
FAX (512) 237-4549

Cultural District Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711-3406  
512/936-6572  
JimBob.McMillan@arts.state.tx.us

May 10, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

The City of Smithville is pleased to collaborate with the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance to seek a Cultural District Designation for the City of Smithville.

We believe that this Designation and our local talent associated with it will help attract additional artists to our community, to further develop existing cultural enterprises and establish new culturally relevant organizations in Smithville, to promote Smithville as a tourist destination, to encourage business and job development, and to help preserve and reuse the important historic buildings in this historic town.

Small towns like ours are hard pressed to come up with the resources needed to take the big step in marketing ourselves, and we hope that the toolbox TCA offers in this and other areas will help us get over that hurdle. Many of us involved in the Cultural District application process are of the opinion that Smithville is right on the cusp of getting the word out that we are bigger than we look, but lack the funds and expertise to market ourselves as effectively as we should. Recognition as a TCA Cultural District would be an extra push to get the word out that people should stop and take a better look.

We are working towards growth in Smithville, but want to protect ourselves from urban sprawl and unwanted patterns of growth that would devalue Smithville's character. At the City of Smithville, we want to establish the means of "smart-for-us growth" so that we are able to increase our tax base, increase the ability to provide jobs for everyone, decrease the number of students that must leave town to make a living, and continue to improve the quality of life for everyone. However, we do not want to grow at the expense of the historic nature or eclectic character of our town. Last year, we established the "Historic Preservation and Design Standards Advisory Committee" to both create a Medallion Program to celebrate our past and also create a guidebook that will let incoming developers see what kinds of architecture is encouraged to retain that character. Finding a balance is important, and we are seeking a way to grow that makes sense for Smithville.

Thank you for considering Smithville for the Cultural District Program.

Mark A. Bunte, Mayor

Mike Kahane, Mayor Pro-Tem

Robert Tamble, Councilmember

Lenel Tamez, Councilmember

Joanna Morgan, Councilmember

Scott Saunders, Councilmember



May 15, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

I am the President of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and I strongly believe that Smithville's application for a Cultural District Designation is very strong and it very worthy of the designation. Our small, rural town is proud of our history, artistic character, culture, and our ability to work together to make everything possible.

I find that having the Cultural District Designation will have a major impact on the local and surrounding communities. Having the designation provides our community a way to promote and sell our community to others. This designation also falls in line with the objectives of Smithville's Comprehensive Plan. We also look forward to increasing our recognition within the artist community. Since each and every cultural district is different, I believe that Smithville is an excellent addition to the cultural districts.

This community has deep roots and knows how to come together to make things happen. We are blessed to live in a community where groups of dedicated individuals who see a need or a gap get together and find ways to accomplish so much for our small community. The Veterans Memorial Park is only one of many examples of how we venerate our culture. The artist and foundry that made the 15 foot tall angel for the Park also made a bust of Dr. Thomas Gazley, which will be set in our new Independence Park and is currently on display at the Smithville Public Library, and the Martin Luther King Jr. sculpture, which is about to be installed at Smithville's MLK Park.

A Cultural District Designation would enhance what we already have here. It would help us showcase our many talented artists, history, and our culture of a community that helps one another. A Cultural District Designation will show the world what we here all know is true: that the cultural and artistic assets in Smithville are important, interesting, and worth visiting.

Sincerely,

Raylynn Fillman  
President  
Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce

# Smithville Heritage Society

(512) 237-4545

P. O. Box 332  
Smithville, Texas 78957



SMITHVILLE HERITAGE HOUSE  
602 Main Street

May 15, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The Smithville Heritage Society Board of Directors strongly supports the City of Smithville's Cultural District application. We are a 37-year old institution, created during the country's Bicentennial celebrations to perpetuate the history of Smithville's participation in the Texas Revolution and all conflicts since that era, the early railroad days in Central Texas, and our many historic structures through both our Commercial Historic District and our Residential Historic District. The fact that such a small city as Smithville chose to recognize the importance of history as a part of its culture speaks to the foresight of our city fathers.

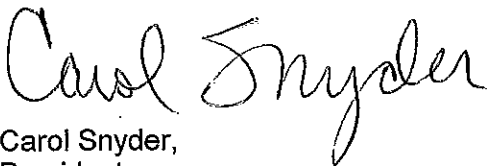
The Heritage Society has always supported the multi-faceted arts community in our city through historic exhibits and displays, historic tour brochures in conjunction with our Chamber of Commerce, and we offer programs which both inform and entertain audiences with the history of Smithville and the surrounding area. Smithville is a city which has always encouraged "the arts", beginning with the old Maney Opera House, built in the 1890s. Sadly, the Opera House burned in the late 1920s; however, we know from historic archives that the Opera House was used for visiting dignitaries and entertainers, but also by locals for plays and other performances. In many cases, the cast was made up of residents who worked for the MK&T Railroad as firemen, engineers and brakemen.

Cultural activity has continued through the years with performances such as church, school and private plays, concerts and recitals, and in the past twenty or so years has included the Art League, which is now the very active and productive Lost Pines Artisans Alliance.

We are proud that the Cultural District application includes ethnic highlights, including the over 100-year old Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church and other nearby sites in the local community.

The Heritage Society looks forward to working with the City of Smithville in designing and producing appropriate signage to designate Cultural District highlights to visitors and citizens alike. We will be happy to provide the Steering Committee with whatever historic information they need, and will always encourage a community spirit in Smithville which is filled with arts, music, theatre, and above all – history!.

Sincerely,



Carol Snyder,  
President  
Ph: 830-839-4080

May 17, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillian and Cultural District Committee,

As a long time resident, former local business owner and community volunteer, I believe in and support Smithville's application for a Cultural District Designation.

Serving as current Chairman of the Smithville Historic Preservation and Design Standards Advisory Committee and as a past Chairman of the Smithville Planning and Zoning Commission, I have long been aware of Smithville's unique and eclectic artistic character and how important those contributions have been in defining the identity of Smithville, both past and present.

For decades Smithville has had a "little secret". It is a hub for artists and musicians, who have shared their many talents with our community. Come to Smithville and see our Public Art project, visit the LPPA Art Gallery, attend a play at the Smithville Playhouse, enjoy live music at the Gazebo at the end of Historic Main St., view the beautiful angelic sculpture at the new Veterans' Park and mosaic designs at the Skate Park, have a meal at one of our restaurants, which display local art, or visit one of the local shops which display and sell the work of local artists.

It is due to the love for Smithville and hard work and dedication of local folks working together through the years that all of the above has been made possible.

The awarding of a Cultural District Designation will bring wide recognition to the cultural and artistic assets in Smithville. Help us share Smithville's "little secret" with everyone!

Thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,



Nancy Todd Catherman



## Smithville Community Gardens

PO Box 664/ Smithville, TX 78957

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Cultural district Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711-3406  
512/936-6572  
JimBob.McMillan@arts.state.tx.us

May 9, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

The Smithville Community Gardens support many of the Smithville-area residents who may not have access to fresh, organic produce. Our organization tills, plants, and tends seven garden plots in town. These properties were once vacant lots, but the current property owners are allowing us to make them productive again. One in particular is located adjacent to our local Food Pantry, which services approximately 150 families every week.

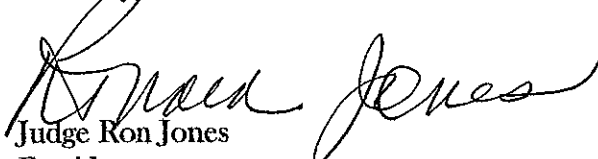
We are very excited to learn about this opportunity for Smithville to become designated a Cultural District. The SCG and its sister organization, the Smithville Food Pantry, work hard to beat food insecurity in Smithville so that our people can spend time on higher pursuits—education and the arts among them—and we have collaborated with both the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance and the Smithville Independent School District to bring the arts into the gardens and to bring additional gardening and nutrition skills into the schools.

We believe that the benefits of being designated as a Cultural District will help us further our goals to ensure food security for our people by bringing more attention to our mission and our good works, potentially via agricultural tourism.

We have included a map of our gardens with this letter. Please also see our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/TheSmithvilleCommunityGardens](http://www.facebook.com/TheSmithvilleCommunityGardens)) for more information about our group.

Thank you for considering Smithville to be part of the Cultural District program.

Sincerely,

  
Judge Ron Jones  
President

# VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

SMITHVILLE TEXAS



*A Place to Pay Tribute*

*A Place to Pray for Peace*

## Friends of the Veterans Memorial Park

PO Box 449  
Smithville TX, 78957  
512/237-3282  
[www.texasmemorialpark.org](http://www.texasmemorialpark.org)

## Board of Directors

*Director:* Kathy Karcher

*Associate Director:*  
Nina Richards

*Liaison with Veterans'*  
*Advisory Board:* Colin Scott

*Secretary:* April Daniels

*Treasurer:* Patricia Hoffman

*Parliamentarian:*  
Mayor Mark Bunte

*Historian:* Kristen Henry

*Liaison with the City of*  
*Smithville:* Jill Strube

Tax Exempt ID: 74-6002322

Cultural District Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711-3406  
512/936-6572  
[JimBob.McMillan@arts.state.tx.us](mailto:JimBob.McMillan@arts.state.tx.us)

May 9, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

The Dedication of the Veterans Memorial Park is set for May 27, 2013. We are very proud after about three years of seeking partners and sources of funding that our small town has been able to create such a long-lasting monument to the veterans of this great nation.

The value of the Park is nearly \$720,000, including the donation of land from the City of Smithville; Bastrop County contributions in grading the land and making the parking lot; donations of materials and labor from companies like Hanson Brick in Elgin, LCRA, and RES Construction for the concrete; community contributions of scrap metal resulting in over 250 tons of scrap removed from the environment equaling about \$50,000; as well as about \$300,000 in cash donations—about half of which came from individuals who donated whatever they could, whether it was change in their pockets or \$1,000 or more.

This community knows how to come together to make things happen. We are blessed to live in this town where groups of dedicated individuals who see a need or a gap who get together to find a way to accomplish great things. The Veterans Memorial Park is only one example of how we venerate our culture. The artist and foundry that made the 15'-tall angel for the Park also made a bust of Dr. Thomas Gazley, which will be set in a new Independence Park and currently is on display at the Smithville Public Library, and the Martin Luther King Jr. sculpture, which is about to be installed at Smithville's MLK Park.

A Cultural District Designation would enhance what we already have here—it would help us showcase our many talented artists, our history, and our culture of a community that helps one another.

Please consider Smithville as your next Cultural District.

Thank you.



Kathy Karcher, Director



# First Presbyterian Church

300 Burleson

Smithville, Texas 78957

Pastor - Rev. Jane C. Johnson

512-360-5231

[www.fpcsmithville.org](http://www.fpcsmithville.org)

[fpcs@sbcglobal.com](mailto:fpcs@sbcglobal.com)

May 13, 2013

Cultural District Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 7711-3406

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

The First Presbyterian Church of Smithville recently celebrated our one hundred fortieth (140) Anniversary by writing a narrative of our church and placing a culturally and historically significant plaque on our building for the benefit of future generations of church members. We, like many other local churches, are very proud to be a part of this area's evolution.

Accordingly, we wish to voice our support for the Cultural District Designation the City of Smithville is currently seeking. We are indeed a culturally aware community and the designation would be most fitting. Your favorable review of the pending application for this designation is encouraged and your valuable review time is respected and appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy A Martin".

Nancy A Martin  
Clerk of Session  
First Presbyterian Church - Smithville



Cultural District Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711-3406  
512/936-6572  
JimBob.McMillan@arts.state.tx.us

May 22, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

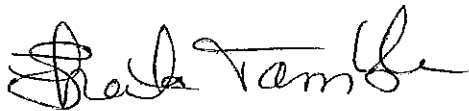
I am an Event Organizer and I believe that the Smithville's application for a Cultural District Designation is very strong. Our small, rural town is proud of our history, our eclectic artistic character, our culture, and our ability to work together to make everything possible.

Having a Cultural District Designation will help our community share our passion about Smithville's history and cultural diversity. Two of the events I organized were held at West End Park on the South Side of Smithville. This building is one of the few remaining structures associated with the "Chitlin' Circuit." The property also has a baseball field where the Negro League played. Hosting the *Chitlin' Circuit Blues Review* enabled us to showcase blues artists that were influenced by the music of that time period in our history. We were also able to share that history with all age groups and ethnicities, most of which knew nothing about the reasons why a Chitlin' Circuit was needed.

The Cultural District Designation can help our community in their efforts to preserve Smithville's historic places like West End Park. Preservation of these sites will enable us to hold more events and increase our tourism dollars.

A Cultural District Designation will show the world what we here all know is true: that the cultural and artistic assets in Smithville are important, interesting, and worth visiting.

Thank you for considering Smithville's application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila Tamble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Tamble".

Sheila Tamble

Cultural district Certification Program

Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director

Texas Commission on the Arts

PO Box 13406

Austin, TX 78711-3406

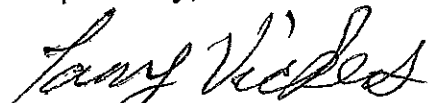
Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

In recognition of the fact that some of Smithville's tangible history has unfortunately been lost over the years, we the members of the Smithville based Lost Pines Treasure Hunters Club have expanded our scope of operation to include the search and recovery of significant cultural or historic artifacts within this historic community. Furthermore, we strive to place the items we recover with the Smithville Heritage Society and the Smithville Public Library for all to see.

This area of support for our community may appear to be small, but we feel it to be a valuable part of this city's recognition of our culture and pride in its heritage. A Cultural District Designation for Smithville would make it much easier for other Texans to understand and enjoy the wonderful values and assets this community routinely shares with its citizens.

We sincerely request your favorable consideration and approval of the application for a Cultural District in Smithville, Texas.

Respectfully,



Larry Vickers

[larry@larryvickers.com](mailto:larry@larryvickers.com)

Secretary

Lost Pines Treasure Hunters Club

May 7, 2013

Respectful greetings to: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director, Texas Commission on the Arts, Cultural District Certification Program.

It behooves me to contact you regarding the Cultural District Application which is being submitted by my home town, Smithville, Texas. I am a seventy-six year old native born responsible retired citizen who appreciates the historic and cultural aspects of life that I am privileged to enjoy in my home town. As a historian I have gained a deep respect for Smithville's cultural development over the years; it has been a valuable part of our community from day one and it has been respected throughout our timeline from a small frontier hamlet to today's charismatic city.

I will not unduly consume your valuable time by attempting to detail the many facets of our cultural involvement as I feel comfortable that the application will provide you with the essential information you will require during your consideration process. However, I would be remiss if I did not mention that our cultural undertakings continue at a rapid pace as demonstrated by the completion of the Veteran's Memorial Park, the artistic upgrade of the Martin Luther King and the Riverbend Parks, and the creation of the new Independence Park. These activities are ongoing in our community through joint cooperative efforts and with privately donated funds. I can offer no better example of the value of and respect for our cultural history than is consistently exhibited by this community.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Herrington", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

David L. Herrington, Proud Texan From Smithville, 500 Mills, 78957.

Mike and Sandy Hightower  
P. O. Box 694  
Smithville, Texas 78957

May 29, 2013

Jill Strube  
City of Smithville

Subject: Support for Community Application for Cultural District

Dear Jill:

Mike and I are so happy that Smithville is submitting the application for the Cultural District designation

We moved to Smithville from Austin in 1998 and immediately fell in love with the town. One of the best surprises we found was the vast talent that is tucked away in every nook and cranny. We quickly came to the conclusion that most every person had an artistic talent: from painting, sculpture, furniture making, writing, design, construction, paperdoll making, culinary, jewelry making, landscaping, and collecting art and antiques.

Smithville is very unique in that the Main Street is basically a long cul-de-sac, with the Colorado River at one end and the Railroad (along with a museum and parks) at the other. Main Street is made up of historical brick buildings (many set up as residences) and a mixture of residential, retail, financial and government offices. With proper direction and support, this street could develop as the centerpoint for our cultural development and distinction.

It is our wish for Smithville to be granted the Cultural District designation and will support the community efforts.

Thank you and the community volunteers for coordinating this effort.

Best Regards

Sandy and Mike Hightower

706 Mills Street  
Smithville, Texas 78957  
May 19, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

I am a concerned resident and I write this letter to support Smithville's application for obtaining a Cultural District Designation. Smithville is a small, rural town that is proud of its history, its eclectic artistic character and culture and has a diverse, well-educated and culturally aware citizens who encourage the expression of art in various forms, such as painting, sculpture, pottery, woodworking, theater, music, and filmmaking, just to name a few of the many art forms currently in play here. This community also has the ability to work very well together to make things possible and then make it all come together and happen.

I bought my home in Smithville early 2010 after retiring here from New Orleans. I have been a part-time resident for the past three years but am now making my way to becoming a full-time resident. One of the things that attracted me to buy my house here in Smithville, besides the quaint nature of the small town and the many volunteer opportunities, was the fact that there was always something going on at any given time regardless of day of the week or month of the year. For a small town this size the citizens have partnered with the schools, library, artisans alliance and other businesses in town to build a community that is art friendly and has the potential to expand exponentially if given the opportunity and resources.

The schools all around Texas (and in the country) have for years continued to cut the art programs from their curricula thus depriving the students from obtaining a well-rounded and balanced education. There are so many educational opportunities in art for students (and adults) of all ages to benefit from because they could actually apply the various information they learn in school as it relates to math, science, language arts and social and life skills and apply it in their exposure to the various art forms expressed. They could grow and could continue to make Texas and the arts community proud!

A Cultural District Designation will show Texas and the world what we here already know: the cultural and artistic assets in Smithville are important, interesting and worth visiting!

Thank you very much for considering Smithville's application for a Cultural District Designation.

Sincerely,

**Caroline Noya**  
Caroline Noya

May 12, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and C.D.C.,

My husband and I are business owners, artists, and proud residents of Smithville since 1981.

We believe a Cultural District Designation is a well-deserved necessity for our town. This is a place that encompasses the best in a small town attitude, with immeasurable pride in our history, past and present. We have and display an amazing variety of cultures, all sharing in the visual, theatrical and musical arts.

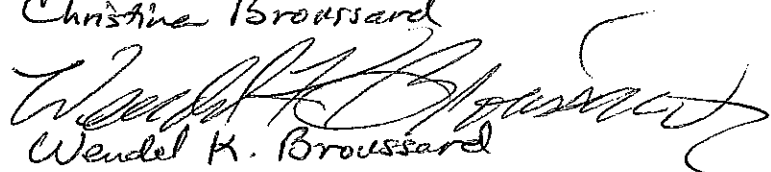
A Cultural District Designation will be of tremendous help in revitalizing our downtown and enriching the lives of the residents and visitors to our town.

Please give our application your approval.

Respectfully,

Chris Brund

Christine Broussard

  
Wendel K. Broussard

## Sacs On Main - Upscale Resale

112 Main Street \* Smithville, Texas 78957 \* 512-237-2343

05/16/13

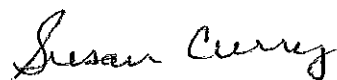
Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

I am a Main Street business owner and resident. In 20012, my husband and I moved to Smithville from Houston. When we decided to move out of Houston, we went in search of a small town near Austin to purchase a historical building. We visited every town between Houston and Austin in all directions. The first time we came to Smithville we felt a strong sense of community, pride and hospitality from all the business owners and residents we met. We never felt that in other towns we visited. We came to Smithville on 6 different occasions before we made the decision to buy here and every time it was the same; we were welcomed with open arms by the friendliest people we had ever met. Another reason we were attracted to Smithville was because of the town's diverse cultural and artistic flair.

With the decline of small towns across America, Smithville is still a thriving business and family community. To have our town designated as a Cultural District will give families opportunities to explore our historic structures, our cultural diversity and to know what small town living is. Our city is unique in the fact that we have a large number of Main Street businesses that hold true to the historic nature of what "Mom and Pop" shops were all about.

Thank you for considering Smithville's application.

Sincerely,



Susan Curry

Cultural District Certification Program  
Attention: Jim Bob McMillan, Deputy Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711-3406

May 25, 2013

Dear Deputy Director McMillan and Cultural District Committee,

We are both artists and business owners, and believe strongly that Smithville's application for a Cultural District Designation is solid, with an exceptionally strong community base. Our small, rural town is proud of our history, our eclectic artistic character, our culture, and our ability to work together to achieve collective goals.

As the owners of two of Smithville's Historic Main Street buildings (112 & 113), we recognize first hand the importance of a vibrant and attractive downtown that invites visitors and residents alike to stroll the streets, with opportunities to shop, dine, and enjoy the benefit of feeling part of this close community. We've mentioned that we're artists; Joe is a musician, composing and playing, and Crystal is a stained glass artist. We love our art, and it's an inherent part of who we are, but we opted to take the traditional path while raising our family. Subsequently, we find ourselves in the role of business owners, and have taken it upon ourselves to rescue two of the finest buildings on Main Street. We did this because we simply love old buildings, and delight in seeing them restored to their glory days. That said, we'd love to see other buildings rescued as well, but know restorations of this type can be daunting. The benefit though, is having a downtown area worth visiting, not only because of the wonderful architecture, but because of the lovely spaces that become available for commerce. Beauty and energy beget beauty and energy. This community has already proven that it has the ability and desire to do great things together; a Cultural District Designation will give us all an opportunity to show what we already have to offer, whilst creating an opportunity to blossom even more.

A Cultural District Designation will show the world what we here all know is true: that the cultural and artistic assets in Smithville are important, interesting, and worth visiting.

Thank you for considering Smithville's application.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe & Crystal Kindred". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Joe & Crystal Kindred



## Jill Strube

---

**From:** Jeri Nell Winslett [jerinellwinslett@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2013 9:57 PM  
**To:** Jill Strube  
**Subject:** Cultural district letter

As an artist, a business owner and concerned citizen I realize the significance of having a Cultural District Designation within Smithville. It would help the many artists in town by giving them recognition outside our community by drawing tourists as well as more artists to town. Creativity opens people up - opens their minds and enhances daily life! And the more creative people a community can draw in, the more they might work together to create, hence making the community-at-large better.

We've got diverse arts right here on Main Street with the Playhouse Smithville, Smooth Moves Dance and the shops who represent our local artists and the history of our ancestors. We also have artists who have their studios in their stores and buildings. There are musicians, sculptors, painters and writers in Smithville. It's the only small town I know of that has a vibrant community of writers who meet once a month in order to read pages from novels or poetry that they have written to a houseful of interested people.

This is a community who is proud of our heritage of trains, hard-working people & unusual and interesting folks. It's a mix that is special to Smithville and we, as a community, want to improve our town to represent our pride in our diversity.

What we would love to have now is an outside boost that could make even more happen here. We're on the verge of great things in Smithville and with the help of a Cultural District Designation it can become a reality!

Jeri Winslett  
Mosaic Art & Home

August 30, 2012

Dear Governing Board of the TCA,

I am writing to express my support for the Smithville Cultural District Application. Having worked in Smithville directing "Doonby," a film about a handsome drifter who gets off a bus in a small rural town in Texas, I can tell you that the town's friendliness, professionalism, and accommodation to me and my production team were tremendously appreciated.

As a means of attracting economic development to the town, the film industry is very promising, and Smithville's attitude in facilitating this effort will ensure their continued presence in the very American culture of film.

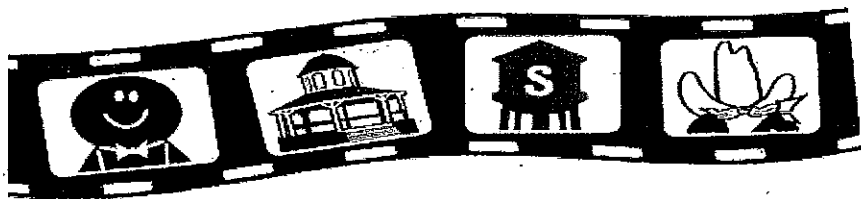
Thank you for considering this special place in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Peter McKenzie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McKenzie", with a long horizontal flourish extending from the bottom of the signature.

PRODUCER + DIRECTOR OF THE MOVIE "DOONBY"  
THAT WAS SHOT IN SMITHVILLE



**SMITHVILLE  
TEXAS**  
A FILM & FAMILY  
FRIENDLY  
COMMUNITY

Dear TCA Governing Board,

The Smithville Film and Music Commission is a group of volunteers through the Chamber of Commerce that works diligently to market our "Film Friendly" designation to the entertainment industry. We are proud to have worked with more than 13 feature films, five shorts, three advertisements, and three music videos in Smithville. We have the honor to have hosted brilliant film and musical artists like Sonny Rhodes, Hannibal Lokumbe, Sandra Bullock, Terrence Malick, Brad Pitt, Willie Nelson, John Schneider, Jimmie Vaughn and Dennis Quaid to name a few.

Famous jazz musician Jimmie Vaughn headlined our Smithville Music Festival in 2009 and 2010 which helped in raising funds for the Smithville Community Fund. Which raises money for preservation of our historical buildings in Smithville.

Prior to the devastating Bastrop Fires in 2011. The Film Commission assisted in the presentation of the "Blues Festival" which celebrated the rich Blues musical history of Smithville. Headliners like Sonny Rhodes and Hannibal Lokumbe and many more performed their music and explained how Smithville Texas was a focal point in the history and proliferation of blues music in America.

Yearly, the Chamber of Commerce's Film Commission sponsors the "Texas Photo Festival". The festival draws hundreds of professional and amateur photographers from all over the state to practice their art of photography. The city provides numerous vignettes all over town for the photographers. Professional and experienced photographers are by the vignettes offering helpful tips for the photographers to improve their skills. The participants are also then encouraged to display their photos taken during the festival on a provided internet site. Their art will be then judged for awards and prizes. The "Photo Festival" also provides formal presentations and forums by professional photographers and sponsoring camera company's helping participants take better or interesting pictures.

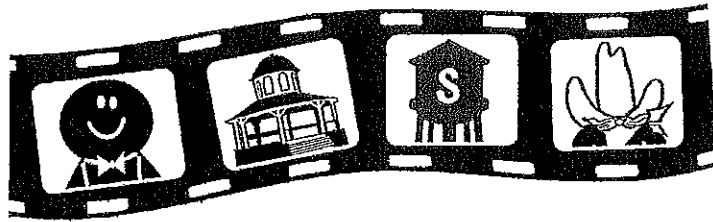
Last year the Film Commission premiered the "Smithville Film Expo". The expo spotlights what is known as the "Below The Line" jobs in the film industry and film productions. Have you ever watched a movie or TV show and asked yourself...."How did they do that? Well, the expo invites participants in "Below the Line" of the film industry (IE Make up and FX artist, Camera operators, lighting, Best Boy, Stunts.....ETC) to come to Smithville and show and demonstrate to the visitors their art of film making. During the expo productions that were filmed in Smithville are presented for viewing and movie tours of the sets and locations in town. Added to the 2012 expo in coordination with other Texas "Film Festivals" will be a contest for aspiring and seasoned film makers to provide to the expo judges their films for judging. Winners will be premiered at the expo.

Our marketing efforts have met with some success, but a cultural district designation would help us get to the next level in attracting the film and music industry as well as our efforts to make a stronger web presence and bring in visitors to see the various film locations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Harold "Skeeter" Sewart

Chairman Smithville Music and Film Commission



**SMITHVILLE  
TEXAS**  
A FILM & FAMILY  
FRIENDLY  
COMMUNITY

**Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Wednesday, 11 January 2012**

**Attending:** Adena Lewis (President), Richard Latham, Sallie Blalock, Skeeter Sewart, Stefani O'Donald, Catherine Miller, Gwendolyn Watkins, Tom Bettes, April Daniels, Amberley Palmer, Sandy Meyerson, Fran Hunter, Troy Streuer & Mac Simpson. Sarah Page and Jack Ranney from LCRA.

**Absent:** J.W. Breeden & Tom Hatfield.

Adena called the retreat to order at 9:05 a.m.

Introductions were made by all attendees.

**Election of Officers:**

Chairman Elect (this person will be Chairman in 2013): Stefani O'Donald, unanimous.

Vice Chairman (back up for Chairman Fran): Gwendolyn Watkins, motion by Tom, motion carried.

Secretary: Catherine Miller, motion carried.

**Appointments of committee chairmen:**

Economic Development - JW Breeden  
Smithville Music and Film Commission - Skeeter Sewart  
Keep Smithville Beautiful - Catherine Miller  
Membership - Tom Hatfield  
Administration - Gwendolyn Watkins  
Tourism - Stefani O'Donald, Co-Chair Sallie Blalock  
Community hosts - Richard Latham  
Community Relations - April Daniels

**Appointment of special event chairmen:**

Fly in, Tourism - Sandy Meyerson (2012 & 2013)  
Casino night, Membership - Mac Simpson (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (13)  
City wide garage sale, Tourism - Amberly Palmer (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (13)  
Festival of lights, Tourism - April Daniels (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (13)  
Reel Film Expo, SMFC - Sallie Blalock/Skeeter Sewart (2012 & 2013)  
Thunder on the Colorado, Tourism- Tom Bettes (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (13)  
TX Photo Festival & Style Show - Fran Hunter (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (13)  
Chamber Banquet, Membership - Amberley Palmer

( **Authorization of signatures for bank accounts:** Catherine Miller, Sallie Blalock & Stefani O'Donald. *Motion by Gwendolyn, Watkins, 2nd by Skeeter Sewart. Motion carried.*

**Recap - Goal setting organization:** Sarah Page

We are not going to break out into small groups since we have so much overlap, we will work together on this plan. There are boards, working boards and then us. She has never seen a board as active as this one. LCRA wants to do an economic impact on TOTC.

See LCRA Strategic Plan handout. This was evaluated as a whole by the Board. Items were updated, added & deleted. A finals copy will be given to Adena by Sarah.

**Other Business**

*Motion by Richard Latham, 2nd by Sallie Blalock, for Chamber to support the initiative for the City of Smithville to become a cultural district. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Sallie Blalock, 2nd by Gwendolyn Watkins for the Chamber to support the City of Smithville to become a Main Street City. Motion carried.* Per Sarah, the Chamber is a member of the Texas downtown association so they can assist April in this endeavor.

**Cancellation of 8 February 2012 Board Meeting:**

*Motion by Sallie Blalock, 2nd by April Daniels to cancel the 8 February 2012 Board meeting. Motion carried.*

**Minutes:**

*Accept minutes of January Board meeting as presented. Motion by Richard Latham, 2nd by Sallie Blalock. Motion carried.*

Please attend Thunder meeting on 16 February at La Cabana 6:30 p.m.

**President's Report:**

Academy awards party is a free party at rec. ctr. Sherry is doing chili & beer. Free will donation. Best Buy is bringing a humongous t.v. screen.

Chamber office has been crazy busy with visitors.

The 10th of February is the last date to pay to be in directory. Several members are over 90 days and Adena has sent a stern letter to each.

Adena will order new name tags for all. The previous company burned and they are not rebuilding, they are moving to California to be near their grandchildren. Adena has sent a request to Vickie Green of Mixs Vickie's Emporium to bid on the name tags and awards.

Smithville Area Chamber Board of Directors Meeting  
10 July 2011

Special Events:

Chamber Mixer-SACS on Main  
Judges Project - Anniversary of Fire  
MLK Day

Ribbon Cuttings:

none

Special Projects:

Thunder on the Colorado  
Bastrop county Long Term Recovery Committee  
Bastrop County Recreation Committee  
Advertising and Promotion  
Car Show  
Katy Home Show  
Red Carpet Party  
Banquet

Meetings Attended:

EDC - Sandy Meyerson, speaker  
City Council  
Railroad Board  
Lions Club  
SMFC Committee  
Tourism  
SCF  
Boys and Girls Club  
Keep Smithville Beautiful  
B.E.S.T. Breakfast  
Character Education  
Texas Independance Trail regional Board - Rosenberg  
LCRA Regional Council - La Grange  
BECD - Austin Airport Presentation  
Family crisis Center Fundraiser  
TXMPA - SAG Awards Event  
Texas Senate - Texas Film Commission presentation

Adena having knee replacement on 19 March, 2012.

*Motion by Gwendolyn Watkins, 2nd by April Daniels to adjourn. Motion carried.*

**Submitted by:**

**Catherine Miller, Secretary**

## **LPAA Board Meeting – December 12, 2011 (6:30 pm)**

**PRESENT:** Benny Shellbetter, PK Scott, Richard Latham, Cammy Snyder, April Daniels, Tina Broussard

**Discussion of Cultural District Application & Economic Development report** – April Daniels reported on the downtown cultural district program that LPAA will sponsor and April will Chair. April reported that she presented the cultural district concept at City Hall during a public meeting on the Smithville Comprehensive Plan re: Arts. April Daniels and Cammy Snyder discussed partnering with the City of Smithville in a process known as Cultural District Designation. The LPAA would co-sponsor the application process with the City with Jill Strube as the City representative and April Daniels as the LPAA representative. The Chamber of Commerce, Association of Citizens for Education, the Arts Cottage and the SBA (Smithville Business Assoc.) have agreed to partner if designation is granted. April Daniels made a motion that the LPAA partner with the City of Smithville to proceed with an application for designation as a Cultural District and to support the process both financially and with volunteer hours as well as use of the LPAA gallery facilities and to serve on any future advisory council or steering committee. Richard Latham seconded. All approved.

**Festival of Lights** – Discussion of arts show. PK reported that 39 booths were booked and approximately 33 booths were manned. We will need to follow up with the Chamber on payment for the booths. PK reported that many of the vendors were reasonably satisfied with the day in spite of moving the event inside instead of being on the street.

**Austin (North)–Painting with a Purpose**–This fundraiser raised \$157.00 – this fundraiser was for fire victims fund which has about \$400.00 in it. Need to discuss disbursing funds to LPAA members. Cammy will discuss this issue with Jo Watts and make a decision regarding the policy of disbursal.

**Historic Designation** – Board is interested in historic designation – City Grants Administrator has expressed the support of the City for this.

**Storage Building** – Discussion of purchase of storage building. Cammy reported that the cost of an 8x10 storage shed for \$1,379.11. Discussion of placement of storage building. Two were in agreement to put the storage building by the tree, three were in favor of putting the building on the back of the parking lot in the corner. Agreed to place storage building on the back of the lot by the fence and alley area.

**Show Names** – Discussion of names for the January/February 2012 show. The theme will be RENEWAL. March will be a featured artist show. April will be Empty Bowl. May/June – Possibly a group show or two featured artists. PK suggested doing a specialty show like a fiber show or broom making or pottery. Possibly a quilting show or functional art show. Discussion of shows lasting one month. Board agreed that was a good idea. Discussion of adding in more featured artists.

**Boys & Girl's Club** – Richard Latham reported that Smithville residents will be asked to paint a star. The Boy's & Girl's Club will supply the stars and are asking that local

artists or businesses decorate the stars and return them to the B&GC to sell at auction. This will be right after Christmas 2011.

**Show Daily** – Discussion of purchasing an ad in the Show Daily magazine. This was tabled until we know whether there will be enough ads sold to include a page committed to Smithville.

April Daniels moved to adjourn.

Richard Latham seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.



# Smithville Cultural District On-Line Survey Report

During August of 2012 (regarding our previous Cultural District Application) and during the month of May 2013, the City of Smithville offered an on-line survey to get comments from the broader community about how they felt about the cultural district application.

## Results:

Connection to Smithville	Number	Percent
I am a resident of Smithville	52	81.3
I am an artist from Smithville	20	31.3
I am a member of the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance (LPAA)	23	35.9
I own a business in Smithville	25	39.1
I am part of the volunteer community in Smithville	53	82.8
I am an interested party in the Cultural District Designation	43	67.2
I am part of the Smithville community in another way	16	25.0

## If you checked "other," please explain:

- While not a resident I live nearby and am in Smithville nearly every day. In the past I have been employed here and have been involved in the community for over 40 years.
- President of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce
- My grandparents were residents of Smithville, helped to found a church there. My Dad grew up there.
- I work with kids at the high school
- I regularly work in Smithville and live nearby.
- I often use Smithville as subject matter for my paintings. Images and notoriety of Smithville goes far and wide.
- I live outside the city limits, but shop, church, visit in Smithville daily.
- I have children who are part of the arts community.
- I do whatever I can to help
- I am an "unofficial" volunteer for several committees/projects. There are so many from which to choose!
- I am a practicing health care professional in the clinic here in Smithville. I provide healthcare to members of our community.
- I am a pastor and resident of Smithville
- I am a pastor and resident of Smithville
- I am a mother of three children who I am raising here and who go to Smithville schools. I am also a board member of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce.
- City employee
- Although I live outside the city limits I consider Smithville my hometown. I work and trade there.

	Number	Percent
I support Smithville's application to request the TCA's Cultural District Designation	62	96.9

(Note: Two respondents did NOT answer this question, but indicated in comments that they were supportive)

**Please briefly state why you support/do not support this effort**

---

- It will be good for economic development, good for our artist community, good for business in general.
- For the last 17 years my husband and I have been living in and growing to love the unique history and charm of Smithville. Both of us spend quite a bit of time and effort involved with several volunteer organizations. We are enthusiastically in favor of a Cultural District Designation.
- I strongly support the TCA Cultural District designation as it will help bring artistic avenues into our community. This in turn will help us with economic development which can help our community grow fiscally and culturally.
- Smithville is a very small town but when something happens here, the whole town pulls together and works together. Thank you
- The Cultural District Designation would be an important asset to the community. I wholeheartedly support the efforts of the volunteers who took on this application. Everyone I've spoken to is completely supportive and excited at the prospect of what this designation could do for our community.
- Everyone to whom I have spoken about this is whole heartedly in support of this designation and what it could mean to our community.
- I believe Smithville is special BECAUSE of the amazing artist we have in our community. It's beyond what you would imagine for a small town like ours. It would be wonderful if we could get our local artist more exposure as well as attract more artists to our community.
- One of the special traits of Smithville is the abundance of artists... in every "nook and cranny" I am not an artist, but truly appreciate their works. My wish is for our community to be able to promote the arts which will in turn encourage and support our talented citizens.
- I chose Smithville as my home after a career in Houston because this community is committed to succeeding in the difficult effort of preserving what is good about small town America while embracing change that improves the lives of our residents and enables us to proudly share our history, art and culture with the visitors who represent a large part of our livelihood. A Cultural District Designation supports that goal.
- Smithville could be more accommodating to the citizens & to our visitors with this designation. In general, the town could use a face lift that the city doesn't have funds to provide. There is a huge amount of interest in this town by outsiders and the citizens but like all efforts to improve we, too, could always use some outside help - help that being designated as a cultural district would provide.
- We work hard to make this a charming, beautiful and safe community for our families and citizens. We preserve our past because we know that to understand our future, we must first understand our past. We encourage artistic expression and entrepreneurship. We encourage our youth to get involved. All of these things promote tourism and allow us to keep our way of life. The cultural district designation would enhance us as our community would enhance the program.
- The Smithville Community is an amazingly talented group and very supportive of local talents. As a member of the Spoken Word group, the Playhouse Smithville, The Arts Cottage and the Lost Pines Artisans there is always something enlightening and artistic going on. The community does this not for the designation - but just because we support culture.
- Smithville has a wonderful community of citizens talented in both creative and performing arts, as well as citizens who value those talents and support the arts. Our town would benefit from this designation and be better able to promote citizen talents.
- I want to participate in Smithville moving forward to becoming more of an artisan enclave, and in the 5 years I have been here it has moved in that direction. A "Cultural Designation" would only help accelerate the process already underway.

- The local art and artists are the active heart of this community. We did not discover this until we moved here and what a treat it has been. Wonderful people behind some really creative visual and performing art.
- I support this effort b/c it will showcase the many gifted artists in the local community which will in turn bring focus to our business community.
- I am assisting the City of Smithville with economic development activities. Smithville is very much a cultural district with different types of artisans, from sculpture to wood to metal-it is a strong point to their quality of life.
- Smithville is a "go get 'em" kind of town. They're not afraid to try something new and they usually succeed when they try them. The people are hard-working, clever, creative, and completely dedicated to the success of that town.
- I am not an artist nor member of LPAA, but as an employee of the Public Library I support this project and am willing to help anyway I can. Smithville is a Great small town with a BIG heart!
- Smithville has a rapidly expanding arts and culture base. Visitors come to enjoy what is offered. With an arts and culture designation, the base will continue to expand, benefitting the entire community.
- Smithville has an active and sizable community of local artist ranging from musicians, actors, writers and artisans who work in wood, metals, clay, oils, watercolor and much more. It time for their contributions to community to be recognized. This designation would do such.
- I am supportive of Smithville becoming a recognized artistic community. This designation would attract more visitors to the area which would bring more revenue to the local businesses.
- Smithville is a magical hometown with a thriving residential district, an entrepreneurial spirit, ever expanding facilities and a wow factor. It is in a place and time all its own and it should magnify its positives.
- Smithville has an active group of clever and talented artists and a diverse population of culturally aware and active people.
- I try to support my children and others in what they enjoy. It would excellent for our city with helping to bring people out to our area. We have a family owned restaurant.
- I believe that Smithville is an outstanding town that supports the community unlike many others that I have seen. There are many artists that live here and in the surrounding areas that would be delighted to have the opportunity to help Smithville fulfill its destiny as an "Arts Destination". We have a prime Central Texas location that makes marketing to all of the major cities in Texas feasible. Most of all we have the artistic talent and support of the city to make all of this possible.
- Visitors and residents alike enjoy the offerings of our cultural district. Because of our genuine rural character, we are a jewel that is a compliment to the urban and mini urban areas that are in easy driving distance from us.
- What a way to aid the addition of more arts/cultural events and help the established arts community. With more advertising, we might draw more artists to participate in our vital community and share our vision of the future as culturally sound in Smithville.
- If you have seen our town, this question is unnecessary. There is beauty that needs to be preserved here, and room to create more history for our youngsters. That can only be done with the Cultural District designation.
- Smithville is a very unique small town; very definitely a town with a creative spirit and a community that works together for the common good of the arts.
- Smithville is such a vibrant community for artists in the area. Let's have the designation reflect this.
- Smithville has a cultural identity and rich history. It would be awesome to have more research done regarding our communities railroading, agriculture, African-American, Mexican-American histories and be able to have a cultural center in which to showcase our shared identities, and schemas.

- Smithville is a very active arts destination. It has just this year erected statues in two different parks. It is a known destination for filmmakers. The city has made available a home that has been converted to an art gallery. The LPAA is a very active arts organization within the community.
- We have a very active artists group and quite a few movies have been filmed here.
- Smithville has a core area which includes both commercial and residential historical structures. The movie industry has found both the architectural features and the cooperation of the citizenry to be attractive. Anything that helps to preserve the flavor of that area is beneficial by attracting the movie industry and the resultant tourist trade.
- No one to whom I've spoken is less than enthusiastic. I have always felt that Smithville and its citizens were very supportive of any effort the artistic community put forth.
- I support this effort to obtain TCA designation for Smithville as it will enable our community to secure grants and other funding we are currently unable to access. It is a worthwhile designation and our community is worthy of this designation. There are artists from Austin and Houston and I am sure other surrounding areas who are members and volunteers in our local gallery.
- Smithville has a rich heritage and a history worthy of recognition. The Cultural Designation would be an excellent opportunity for enhancement of these fine community assets.
- I think there are so many varied opportunities for different arts venues to grow and develop in this area. Smithville is primed and ready to help so many! Give us that opportunity - PLEASE!
- It will help put Smithville on the MAP!
- If you come to Smithville, the answer to that question becomes patently obvious.
- Smithville is home to numerous artists, musicians, craftsmen, etc., but I know very little about most of them and their work. The Cultural District Designation should help showcase these talented individuals and bring attention to the fact that Smithville already has a unique culture just waiting to emerge.
- Sounds like a good way to attract a diverse group of people to our town and potentially revitalize our downtown area.
- Smithville's history is a big part of my family history. I still visit the cemetery and go by the old house on Garwood. Families are Burleson, Slack and Vachon.
- Having Smithville designated as a Cultural District would help our community strengthen its relationship with the Texas Commission for the Arts. This in turn will allow us to support our artists and attract other artisans - whether as performers, visual artists, or students of the arts. As one who already works with TCA for programming support, I feel that having Smithville designated a Cultural District will help others become more familiar with the agency and all that they have to offer.
- I support any program that brings improvements to the downtown area that would attract people to the community.
- I support the effort due to the fact that it ensures all citizens of Smithville will have access to art, regardless of social economic status, ethnic background or disability. It also strengthens education, economic development, preservation of historic sites/buildings and the environment.
- What is the down side? Nothing really.
- I think it would be a great asset to the city of Smithville! It would promote the plethora of artist we currently have in the community and encourage clean growth as well. Bringing more artists to Smithville and increase resources to other local artists! Put money in our City coffers by renting out vacant buildings on Main Street, yet maintaining our Historical designation!
- I am in support because it has taken this long to do this. Should have been done long before.
- The LPAA and its members as individuals have had a tremendous influence in bringing focus to the artistic efforts, interest and abilities within the community. The Smithville Playhouse and various other organized and informal groups have promoted theatre and music. Forming a Cultural District will take these efforts to the next level, and involve even more of the community.

Thank you for your interest in the Smithville application to become a cultural district!

Please take the following survey to let us know what you think about this program. To be used in our application, you will need to take this survey by May 28.

I am a resident of Smithville:

7



I am an interested party in the Cultural District Designation:



10

No

21

Yes

**Please provide contact information if you would like to know more about the Cultural District application.**

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

\_\_\_\_\_

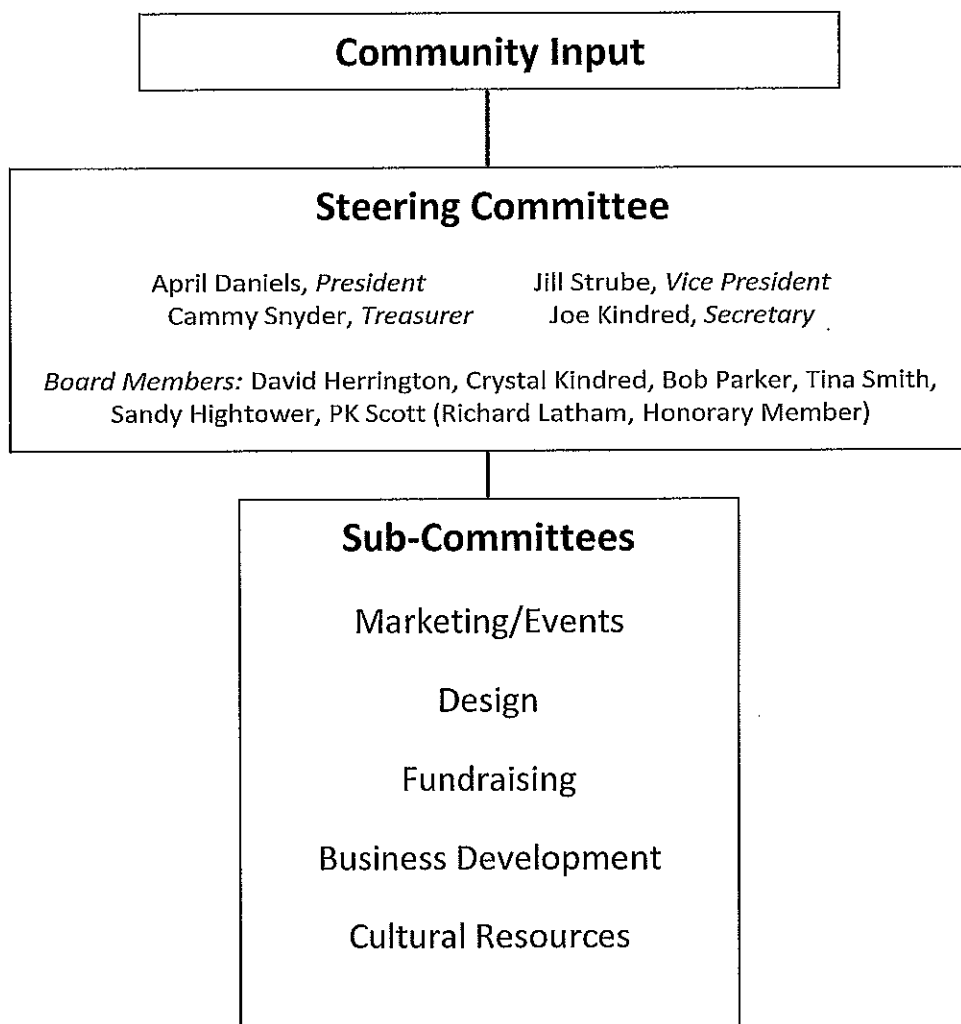
11/11/2011

[Submit Now](#)

5

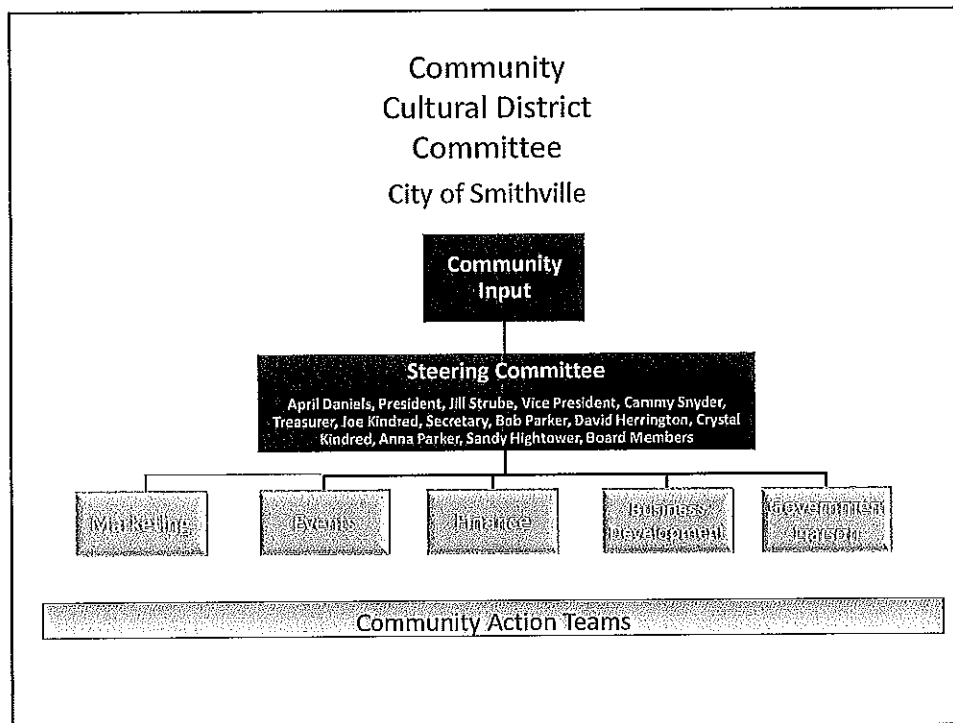
## Appendix C: Organizational Chart and Initially Proposed Programming

### CULTURAL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT - ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## Cultural District Steering Committee Programs

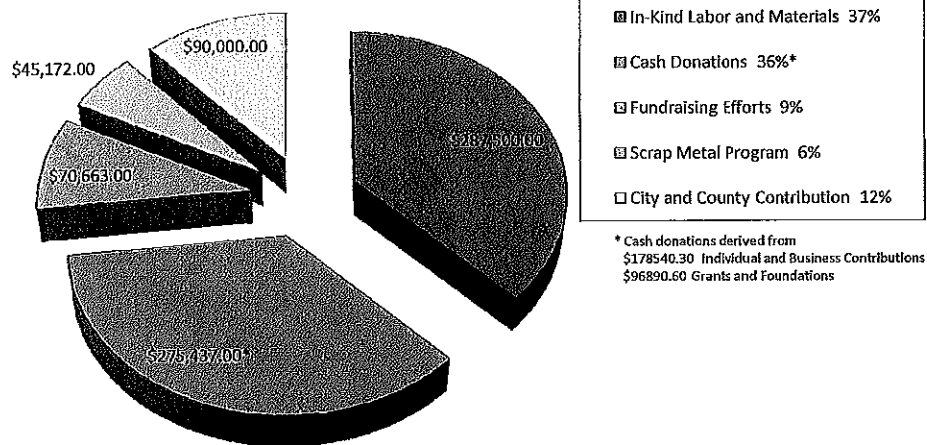
City of Smithville



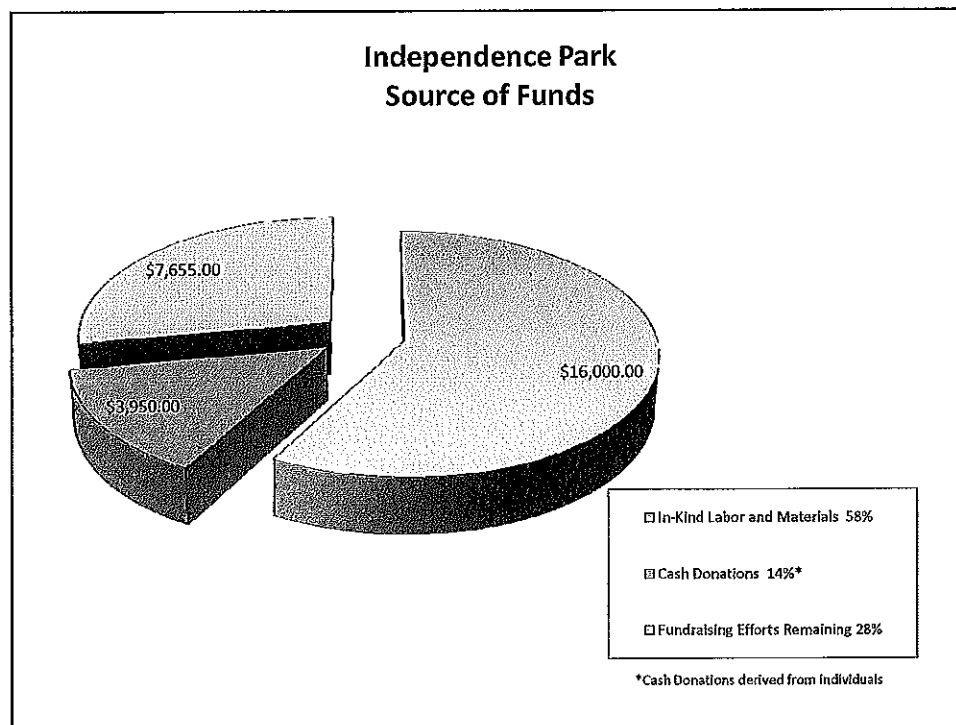
## Projects

- On Line / In Work
  - Skate Park
  - Veteran's Park
  - Playhouse Smithville partnerships (community theater)
  - Independence Park
    - Mural Project
  - Trades Days
  - Empty Bowl
  - Thunder on the Colorado
  - Jamboree
  - Airing of the Quilts
  - Downtown Walking Tour
  - Driving Tour of Film Locations
  - Others
- Proposed Ideas
  - Taste of Smithville
  - Art in the Park
  - Chalk the Walk
  - Sculpture Trail
  - Children's Museum
  - Cultural District Yard Art Award
  - Sand Sculpture Day
  - Hometown Hoedown
  - Foundation for Accessible Music Education
  - Featured Artist of the M/Q/Y
  - Free Artisans Vending Space
  - River Access
  - Movie Theater
  - ArtSpaces: Living and Studio Space

### Veterans Park Source of Secured Funds







## Project Overviews

### **Tastes of Smithville**

- Local and Guest Chefs
  - Prepare fare for food fans
- Culinary Demonstrations
- Vendors
- Food Tasting
- Contest by Taster Survey
- Ticketed event.

### **Art in the Park**

- Seasonal event (quarterly)
- Artists invited free of charge to vend wares and demo in the Rail Park
- Art Supply Vendors
- Donations accepted
- Free

## Project Overviews

### Chalk the Walk

- Springtime event
- Chalk art contest on Main St.
- Chalk made available to children
- Peer judging by age groups
- \$5 buys chalk and space
- \$18 for large box
  - 9 colors x 16 box

### Sculpture Trail

- Independence trail artwalk
- Bi Annual Sculpture Installation
- \$5K per statue, unless more earmarked / approved
- Funds are donated or raised on an ongoing as can basis.
- Art must be relevant work

## Project Overviews

### Yard Art Award

- Bi-annual event
- Story (caption) with picture in paper where applicable.
- Sign in yard within Cultural District

### Sand Sculpture Event

- Contest
- Possibly part of larger event
- Novice to Expert level
- Ribbons awarded

## Project Overviews

### Hometown Hoedown

- Annual Event (Nov)
- Music in the Gazebo
  - 11am – 6pm
- Picnics Encouraged
- Vendors Encouraged

### Featured Artist of the Season

- Artist featured displays / vends works in space determined
- Receives write up in media
  - Newspaper
  - Other appropriate media

## Project Overviews

### Foundation for Accessible Music Education

- 501c3
- Works in conjunction with SISD
- Collects and distributes musical instruments to school age children in need
- Maintains instructor list of teachers at reduced rate and "in kind" donation
- Possible partner with existing org..

### Children's Museum & Theater

- Independent Investor
- Potential Matching Funds
- Proposed restoration of the Rabb and McCollub Bldg
- Children's Museum
- Reestablish Theater

## ArtSpace Project

### **Coop condos**

- Available to commercially viable artists, musicians, writers
- Cost shared living space
- Available studio space
- Self funding
- Coop maintained

### **Storefront**

- Viable commercial district presence
- Members share clerk duties
- Limited studio space

## Appendix D: Examples

### EXAMPLES OF CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT, HISTORIC, AND ARTS ENTERPRISES

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LIST BUT ONLY A SAMPLE OF SMITHVILLE'S CULTURAL ASSETS.

**2006 Guinness World Record Gingerbread Man:** The gingerbread man has symbolized Smithville's Annual Festival of Lights celebration for many years. In 2006 Smithvillians got together and baked a huge gingerbread cookie – in fact, the world's largest at the time – to show the world that Smithville thinks big! The staff at Guinness officially recognized the feat in 2008, and included Smithville's big accomplishment in its 2009 edition. In honor of being officially named the World's Biggest Gingerbread Man, the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Smithville converted the cookie sheet that was used to create the giant gingerbread man into a monument to commemorate the record. The monument was dedicated on December 6, 2008 at the 18th annual Festival of Lights celebration. "Smitty" can be seen at end of Main Street and can be read about online at [www.smithvilletx.org](http://www.smithvilletx.org).

**Bonnie and Clyde Hideaway:** Mr. Dabney, the owner of the "Bonnie and Clyde" home was a friend of Bonnie and Clyde. He allowed them to stay in his home during one of their sojourns between robberies. They never robbed Smithville banks because they wanted to be able to lay low here, making Smithville their perfect hideaway! Mr. Dabney's home is around the corner from where the presiding Judge Jones currently lives on Washington and River Streets. The building is no longer there, having been lost to a fire many years ago, but the legend lives on.

**Bill McGlaun, Sculptor:** World-renowned sculptor Bill McGlaun currently has a studio on Second Street in the proposed Cultural District. He was born in Conroe, TX and went to college at Sam Houston State University, Austin Peay State University, and East Texas State University. Bill was a wildlife sculptor for most of his professional career. He turned to creating human figures in about 2000, and was commissioned for the "Gates of Learning" statue featuring Mrs. Becky Gates for the Becky Gates Children's Center at A&M University. Bill captures symbolism and visual metaphor in his art, and has a rare gift for expressing emotion in his work. After 9/11, he created an American eagle that grips the twisted steel girders of the Twin Towers in its talons, wings folded, head lifted to the sky in protest. After the BP oil spill in the gulf, he was moved to create an indigenous girl, head down in sorrow, standing on a lotus flower base, arms cradling dead a wild goose, all dripping in oil. Most recently, he has created the Angel at the Veterans Memorial Park and the Dr. Thomas Gazely bust in Smithville, and a monument to the Green Berets for Lafayette. (More information about Bill can be seen at [www.billsbronze.com](http://www.billsbronze.com).)

**Central School:** The first bond passed for the construction of a school building in Smithville was in 1907. The total bond amount was \$2,500 and the funds were used to construct what is now known as Central School. This building still stands today though it is no longer used, although many residents remember their school days vividly within its walls. In 2010, an organization, the Smithville Community Fund (SCF), was formed with the intention of "Saving Central School" and renovate it to house various community-driven and arts organizations.

The SCF is still working to secure and restore this historic building which has, among other important assets and great historic value, a large auditorium that has great potential for events in Smithville.

**Devonshire Incense & Soap Company:** Devonshire Incense Company's unique family recipes infuse each incense wand with natural tree resins, essential oils, and rare botanicals, sealing in the fragrance so the incense will smell the same in 20 years as it does today. It also produces candles and lotions that smell like sugar cookies, peppermint, and even dirt. Devonshire was founded and has been in continuous operation since 1967. Devonshire is located on NE Second Street, Smithville ([www.devonshireinsense.com](http://www.devonshireinsense.com)).

**Independence Park:** The City of Smithville-owned tract of land located at the gateway to the proposed Cultural District (Loop 230 & Hwy 95) is the location of Independence Park which will serve as an starting point to the Cultural District and a gathering place for outdoor cultural events. It is in the construction stage, and currently the road and flagpole have been built. It will include an amphitheater to be constructed into the hill, which would overlook the stage on the banks of Gazley Creek, and a hike and bike sculpture trail that will connect the downtown area with the Colorado River.

**James H. Long Railroad Park & Museum:** Whether you're a railroad aficionado, or just enjoy the charm of small, historic towns, the James H. Long Railroad Park and Museum in Smithville, Texas, welcomes you! With railroad history and artifacts dating from 1886, Smithville's Railroad Museum is fun for visitors of all ages. From Smithville's Main Street, the white Gazebo and the twenty-foot high 2006 Guinness World Record Gingerbread Man beckon you to the Railroad Park and its special events area. Children will enjoy the playground, nestled between two actual railroad cabooses while you picnic in the park (<http://www.smithvillerrailroadpark.org>).

**Main Street Scenic Overlook:** This scenic overlook is the link between downtown Smithville and the Colorado River. Groups have begun discussions on how to build the park so that people have access to the water at this point, potentially to include kayak/canoe rentals and other related activities.

**Mary A. Brown Primary School:** During segregation, this was the first black high school. It is now the primary school for grades Pre-K through Second Grade for all students in the public SISD system. Its "cafetorium" has been used for public meetings and school productions ([www.smithvilleisd.org](http://www.smithvilleisd.org)).

**Mary Nichols Art Gallery:** The Mary Nichols Art Center-LPAA Gallery is located in the heart of Smithville. This beautiful historic home has been renovated and is dedicated to the public art of Smithville area artists. The goal of the Lost Pines Artisans Alliance is to enrich and unify the arts community in Smithville and Bastrop County and to work to make Smithville known as an "arts destination" bringing increased tourism and commerce to Smithville. The Lost Pines Artisans Alliance also works to make the arts more accessible to the citizens of the community and advocates for its members ([www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org](http://www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org)).

**MLK Park:** Located at the corner of MLK and Marburger adjacent to the Little League Fields, MLK Park features a set of swings, a space arc, basketball goals, picnic tables and BBQ pits and is a frequent host of community events and programs. The Smithville Public Library hosts "Bookworms in the Park" at the MLK and two other locations to bring the library and book exchange opportunities to communities that are hard-pressed to get to Main Street (<http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/PARD.aspx>).

**Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church:** Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church celebrated 112 years as a cornerstone of Smithville's black community on Jan. 22, 2012. The church, at SW 4th and 400 Walker St., has been a landmark in the

community since its founding on June 23, 1900 when the trustees of the Missionary Baptist Church purchased the property. At that time it cost \$75 to construct that building.

**Pat Wolf Designs:** Patricia Wolf promotes All-American western traditions and has made everything in Smithville for 30 years. Patricia loves designing clothing, accessories, and home decor with a western lifestyle theme with styles ranging from chic, to buckaroo cowgirl, and to vintage cowboy home furnishings. Western Americana will always be with us, but not everyone lives on a ranch. She sees her collections as not just "Western", but as something fun when the occasion fits, either in Santa Fe, New Mexico or New York City (<http://www.patriciawolf.com>).

**Playhouse Smithville:** An active community theater located in the heart of the proposed cultural district on Main Street. Founded in 2009, Playhouse Smithville has produced fifteen main-stage productions and has hosted many community events including the recent Smithville Music & Film Commission Reel Film Expo and several films in the Texas Independent Film Network Texas Filmmaker series. The Playhouse enhanced the Smithville Ghost Tour by working in association with the Bastrop County Paranormal Association in September 2012. See [www.playhousesmithville.com](http://www.playhousesmithville.com) for more information.

**Riverbend Park:** Smithville's largest park encompassing 50 acres of land. It features a large open area, softball field, volleyball courts, a pavillion, a fenced in area for large events which includes two permanent stages and a dance floor, a large playground, 19 campsite pads with restrooms and showers along with a dump station and a boat ramp (<http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/PARD.aspx>).

**Smithville Heritage Museum:** The Smithville Heritage Society, organized in 1975, is the official keeper of Smithville's exciting early Texas history. The lovely 1908 Heritage House-Museum is home to historic Smithville artifacts. Archival storage and office space are provided in the metal building located on the museum grounds. Artifacts include farm, ranch and carpentry tools, early 1900's furniture and décor, household sewing and cooking implements and other relics of early life in Smithville. The archives include Smithville's newspapers, photographs and literature which document Smithville's history and information on our two unique National Register Historic Districts—Residential and Commercial. Popular research areas include histories of local businesses, homes, family genealogies, schools, churches, clubs and organizations, as well as military and local war hero history.

**Smithville ISD "Red Brick" Building:** In 1924 the City of Smithville agreed to sell ten acres of land to the school district at a cost of \$1,500. Work began immediately on a 2-story structure that contained a total of 12 classrooms, an administrative office and the city's first "official" real stage and auditorium. This 1924 structure now houses the district administrative offices and contains one of the city's three usable performance stage/auditoriums ([www.smithvilleisd.org](http://www.smithvilleisd.org)).

**Smithville Music & Film Commission:** The Smithville Music and Film Commission (SFC) was created in 2008 shortly after filming wrapped for The Tree of Life. In January 2008, only five days after the introduction of the state program, the Texas Film Commission named Smithville the first "Film Friendly Community" in Texas, and ever since, Smithville has been living up to its name. For years to come, the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center plans to continue welcoming the busloads of tourists that arrive weekly in Smithville eager to see the film locations. A popular film tour has been created by the Chamber (brochure attached). The Chamber also recently hosted the Second Annual Reel Film Expo which focused on the "behind the scenes" art of film making, highlighting film locations, technical film positions such as makeup and stunt

artists, and was able to successfully host a film expo that showed multiple films, all of which were shot on location in Smithville as well as holding a film competition which included multiple submissions and awarded prizes in categories including *Shorts*, *Documentaries* and *Features*.

**Smithville Recreation Center:** The City of Smithville Indoor Recreation Center is a city-owned 22,500 square foot multi-purpose facility. The building features a full-sized UIL standard gymnasium and theatrical stage as well as many other amenities and has played host to many cultural events including the Smithville Festival of Lights arts and crafts fair, the Smithville Public Library Summer Reading performance program, the Texas Ham Radio Club and the Texas Square Dancing League(<http://www.ci.smithville.tx.us/PARD.aspx>).

**Smithville Texas Veterans Memorial Park:** The city of Smithville and Mayor Mark Bunte have created a unique park project for the city that combines a children's water recreation area and a memorial space and monument to honor the fallen heroes of Bastrop County. Mayor Bunte and Patti Patton Bader, founder of Soldier's Angels, a non-profit organization that supports tens of thousands of American military personnel across the globe with care packages from home, developed the concept for the park after a conversation about the fallen heroes from Smithville and the Bastrop County area. The community has lost more soldiers, for its size, than any other during the recent fight for freedom. The concept for a children's area as part of the memorial came from families of the fallen who expressed the desire to have youthful energy and joy as part of a tribute to soldiers who fell in the fight for freedom. The memorial park project quickly grew with the contributions of artists and volunteers willing to see the concept come to fruition. Support and funding has also come from governmental, business and private organizations across the county. The cities of Bastrop and Elgin have provided support as well. The park is complete and opened for visitors on May 27, 2013 ([www.texasmemorialpark.org](http://www.texasmemorialpark.org)).

**Smooth Moves Dance Studio:** Smooth Moves Dance is a well-established performing arts studio that has proudly served Bastrop County and surrounding areas for over thirty years. Enrollment includes students from Smithville, Rosanky, Bastrop, Cedar Creek, LaGrange, Fayetteville, Giddings, Flatonia, Elgin, and Winchester among many other communities. Smooth Moves' dedication to a higher level of learning has earned both SMD students and instructors recognition throughout the state of Texas for excellence in technique, choreography, and creativity. Their studio is located right in the heart of historical downtown Smithville, Texas. The newly renovated facility comes complete with a spacious dance area, high ceilings, and hard wood pine floors to ensure the health and safety of students. The studio is fully equipped with ballet barres, mirrors, and a state of the art sound system. Smooth Moves is within walking distance of some great places to shop and eat, as well as the city Recreation Center, skate park, dog park, and railroad park complete with playground equipment and is located in the heart of the proposed Cultural District.

**Tom-Kat Paper Dolls:** Tom Tierney is a renowned creator of paper doll art with multiple book publications to his credit. His studio/storefront is located on Main Street, Smithville. Mr. Tierney's artistic accomplishments are manifold and can be viewed at <http://www.tomtierney.com/index.htm>.

**Veterans Memorial Park:** This Veterans Memorial is designed to pay tribute to everyone who has worn a uniform with pride and dignity: anyone who is currently serving our great country, anyone who has served in the past during war or peace time, and anyone who survived conflict or perished in it. In short, anyone from anywhere who has signed up for service in any of the military branches at any time can find a place in this Memorial. Anyone wishing to honor a family member, friend, mentor, or colleague who is serving or has served is welcome to add that person's name to the wall, the pavers, and the catalog of heroes. The vision of this Memorial Park includes more than strictly names on a wall. Veterans have important personal stories to tell. The data collected



through this program will be included in a searchable database on the internet for those pursuing genealogical information and for those interested in veterans' lives. The Friends of the Veterans Memorial Park, a completely volunteer group, is working with the community to get living veterans to tell their stories. A special project for this organization is to work with teachers and students at each of the schools to research the background of their own family members as well as other figures in the database. StoryCorps, a program with the National Library of Congress, came to Bastrop County in the summer of 2010 and gathered 24 stories that will become part of our Smithville Public Library as well. This project is a venue for strengthening education and training programs that stress historical research. The database created through these efforts will truly serve to help people understand history and their family's part in it.

**West End Park & the Chittlin' Trail Circuit:** West End Park is a landmark of local African-American culture and one of the stops on the Chittlin' Trail Circuit, a string of entertainment venues that stretched from the Cotton Club in New York City to the Victory Grill in Austin. These performance halls provided safe venues for African-Americans to meet when racial segregation was in full swing throughout the eastern and southern U.S.

**Woodworking Artisans:** Sam Blasco (Samantics Squared: [www.samantics2.com](http://www.samantics2.com)), Edward Alexander (111 Store), Clay Roberts (Clay Roberts & Co.), and Charlie Smith (Smith & McGill) are located near the intersection of NW Second Street and Main. They create custom crafts using wood as their medium, including bowls, wall art, furniture, cabinetry, picture frames and carvings. Another custom woodworking company, Bill's Creations, located on Loop 230, creates primitive art, yard furniture, and anything the customer can dream up.

**Annual Events and Festivals:** A wide variety of annual, nearly annual, or otherwise regular festivals, events, and community fundraisers are very successful and well-attended in Smithville. The Jamboree and Festival of Lights have been annual events for more than twenty-five years. Thunder on the Colorado is a successful biker rally held annually at Riverbend Park and the Airing of the Quilts on Main Street attracts tourists from all over the state. Examples include but are not limited to:

Event	Sponsoring Organization	Time of Year	Location
Smithville Green EXPO	Smithville Public Library	January	Main Street
Thunder on the Colorado	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	March	Riverbend Park
Tour of Smithville	Smithville Elementary School	March	Downtown Area
Cure on the Colorado	MD Anderson	March	Riverbend Park
Smithville Jamboree	Jamboree Committee	Weekend after Easter	Riverbend Park and Main Street
Smithville Swing Golf Tournament	Parks and Recreation Department	April	Bastrop State Park Golf Course
Smithville Empty Bowl Project	Smithville Food Pantry, Smithville Community Gardens, and Lost Pines Artisans Alliance	April	LPAA Art Center and Gallery
Reel Film Expo	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	April	Main Street
Cinco de Mayo	Association of Citizens for Education	May	Riverbend Park
Smithville Fly In	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	May	Smithville Crawford Municipal Airport
Summer Reading Program	Smithville Public Library	June-August	Riverbend Park, Recreation Center, and other locations around Smithville
Casino Night	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	July	Recreation Center

<b>Event</b>	<b>Sponsoring Organization</b>	<b>Time of Year</b>	<b>Location</b>
SCG Fundraiser Dinner	Smithville Community Gardens	September	Recreation Center
Chilirado	Benefits Make A Wish Foundation	October	Riverbend Park
Smithville Photo Festival	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	October	Main Street
Ghost Tours	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	October	Main Street
Airing of the Quilts	Airing of the Quilts Committee	November	Main Street
Smithville Festival of Lights	Smithville Chamber of Commerce	December	Main Street
Trades Days	Smithville Businesses	Monthly, March-December	Main Street

Community members in Smithville are always ready for a new party and a new challenge, and continually come up with new ideas for something to do. It is a rare weekend in Smithville when there's nothing going on... Most newcomers say they have more options on a weekend than they had in the big city!

## **Appendix F: November 2011 Memo Related to Signage**

Please note: The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce has begun taking steps to get the "Blue Highway Signs" process initiated with businesses on and around the SH95/Loop 230 Exit from Hwy 71.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Smithville City Council, Mayor, and City Manager  
**FROM:** Jill Strube, Grants Administrator  
**RE:** Highway Signs  
**DATE:** November 10, 2011

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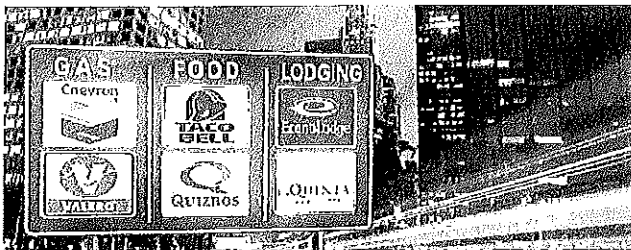
I spoke to Steven Jones, Site Development Manager for the Blue Lone Star Logo and Tourist Oriented Direction Signs on November 8.

### Blue Lone Star Logo Signs

<http://www.lone-starlogos.com/logos.php?lang=en&c=1>



### LOGOS SIGNS



At our nearest exits, traffic is estimated to be under 30,000 vehicles/day (at 11,000-12,000 vehicles/day), which allows us to get a sign at the cheapest rate.

This rate is \$900 per year per business listed on the sign. Up to six businesses can be listed on one sign. If all six places are taken, the sign costs \$5400 per year total. The start-up fee for printing and installation is about \$150, but occasionally they will waive this fee.

Some local areas will subsidize this cost to the businesses that are eligible and want to take advantage of this advertising. Steven Jones mentioned that these blue signs are one of the more valuable kinds of advertising based on 1,000 views per day. Their sales staff has data that explain how well these signs work.

A technician is required to measure the location to ensure it meets TXDOT eligibility requirements. Lone Star sales representatives will work with us to fill up the signs. They are required to visit each community to determine the eligibility of each business for the program. For example, to be eligible:

- Gas stations must provide clean restrooms;
- Restaurants must serve at least two meals each day;
- Public restrooms must be available in restaurants (not only for customers); and
- Businesses offering lodging must offer single night room rates (not only weekly rates).

Each category of business must meet other TXDOT requirements, but this gives you an idea of what they are trying to achieve. Businesses need to put the best face on the town and provide needed services for travelers at many hours of the day, all days of the week.

Businesses must also be within a certain number of stoplights from the sign. Travelers do not want to be taken for a ride once they get off the highway.

Lone Star Logo representatives would work with us to find businesses that would maximize the space on the sign. One or two businesses is not profitable for them. They want all six.

### Tourist Oriented Direction Signs

<http://www.lone-starlogos.com/tods.php?lang=en>

Alternatively, some businesses (he mentioned B&Bs in particular) might be interested in the Tourist Oriented Directional Sign (TOD). These are \$500 per year plus installation and printing fees (of approximately \$150 that might be waived) for any

business that qualifies. Eligibility rules would be similar to those above.

A business interested in a TOD must:

- Derive a major portion of its income or visitors during the normal business season from highway users not residing within 50 miles from the facility;
- Provide a tourist-oriented service or tourist-oriented product of significant interest to the traveling public;
- Comply with all state and federal laws relating to: (i) provision of public accommodation without regard to race
- Be located within five driving miles from the eligible highway;
- Provide modern restroom facilities and drinking water;
- Be clean and in good repair; and
- Be in compliance with provisions regarding illegal signs as defined in the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 USC 131)
- Be located in a city or area with a population of 5,000 or less



TOURIST-ORIENTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS PROGRAM (1) & (2)



#### **Contact information for Lone-Star Logo Signs**

Steven Jones - Site Development Manager  
611 S. Congress Avenue, Suite 300  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-462-1310  
Fax: 512-462-1315  
Email: [sjones@lone-starlogos.com](mailto:sjones@lone-starlogos.com)  
Website: [www.lone-starlogos.com](http://www.lone-starlogos.com)

#### **Sign for Riverbend Park**

The Blue Sign program (essentially for businesses) and the Brown Sign program (for state-owned parks and features) will not work for Riverbend Park. Instead, we have three potential options:

1. Install our own sign that will have to be outside of TXDOT right of way (25' from the highway). We would need to maintain it, get permission from property owners (if needed), and make sure it is large enough to catch people's eyes.
2. Our Municipal Maintenance Agreement likely will allow us to put signs back up in the same location, but we would need to pay for them and maintain them.
3. Work with the "way finding" program with TXDOT.

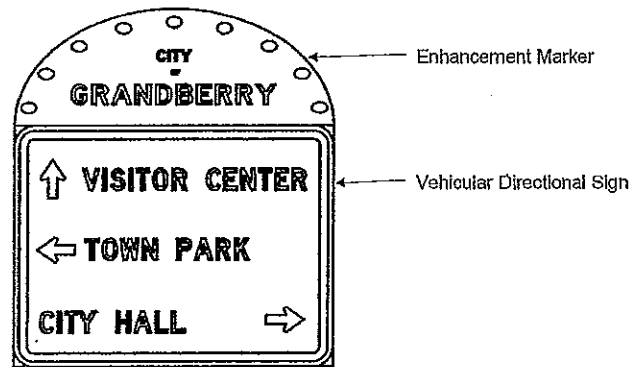


Figure 1. Wayfinding Guide Sign

I spoke with Randal Lenz ([randel.lenz@txdot.gov](mailto:randel.lenz@txdot.gov); 512-832-7183) on November 10. If we want to work with the way finding program, we would need to look at Smithville in its entirety and post several signs around town to systematically help people find their way to different cultural, recreational, and civic areas. Mr. Lenz would help us guide us in the details of color, design, reflectivity, and so on, and would help us negotiate approval and technical issues with TXDOT. We would need to develop the plans for these signs, pay for production, installation and maintenance.

For more information about "way finding," see the TXDOT guidelines for a wide variety of signage: <ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/gov/wayfinding.pdf>

# Appendix G: Branding Plan

Branding plans for the Cultural District include several phases:

## **PHASE I – Create the “Look”**

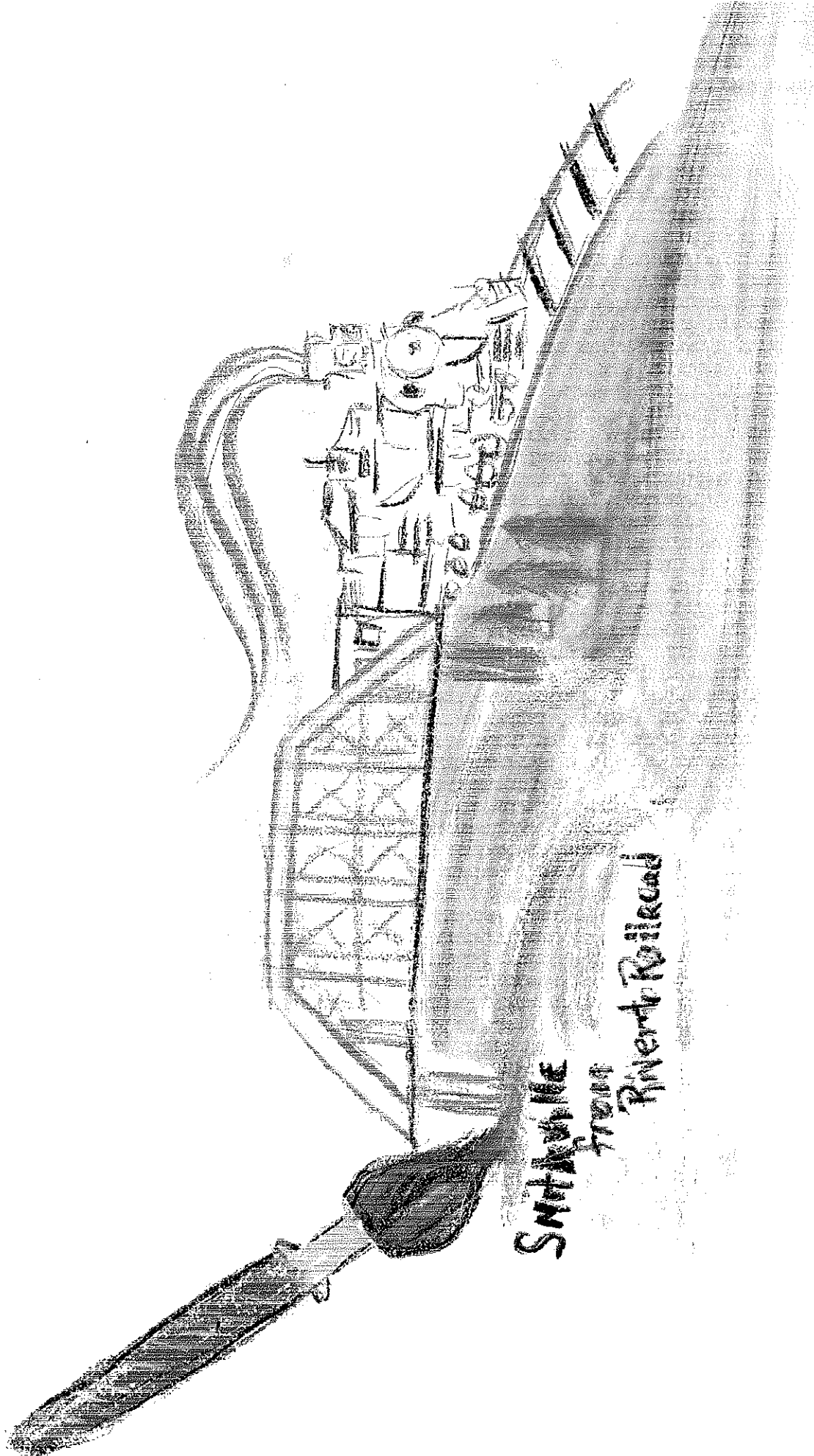
1. Create a branding look which may include “From River to Railroad” (a mock-up of logo is attached).
2. Coordinate marketing efforts across organizations including the City, Chamber of Commerce and LPAA as well as other Bastrop County organizations.
3. Create templates for strategic marketing materials including walking and driving tours, signage throughout the District and on HWY 71 gateway locations and signage (for example, at Independence Park, currently under construction located at HWY 95 and Loop 230, where cultural projects include a mural, a gazebo, a bust of founder Dr. Thomas Gazley and a large welcome sign made by a local artist stonemason to announce the Cultural and Historic District corridor).

## **PHASE II – Build in the Brand**

1. Implement signage and beautification projects throughout the proposed Cultural District.
2. Market Independence Park.
3. Create additional murals and public art throughout proposed Cultural District with partnerships with other similarly populated towns to create a “Mural Tour.”

## **PHASE III – Seek Funds and Volunteers to Continue the Effort**

1. Continue revitalization efforts of the Main Street corridor.
2. Find funding necessary to build the amphitheater and hike/bike trail at Independence Park.
3. Revisit the Comprehensive Plan and hold public meetings to prioritize the next set of projects.



Smithville  
from  
River to Railroad